CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1924 2024

Claxton Centennial celebration design and Claxton logo created by Claxton parents, Grace and Drew Findley from Subject Matter Studio

How do you tell the story of a 100 year old school building? If this building could talk, which stories would it tell? It has witnessed student growth, friendships blossom, deep inquiry, tragedy, yearly traditions, building renovations, and thousands of papers and pencils during its time.

In collaboration with the UNC Asheville Center for Diversity Education, Claxton Elementary has created a timeline that centers historical events as well as the various students, families, educators, and community members that have helped shape its history. With the support of the Buncombe County Special Collections at Pack Memorial Library, newspaper articles, images, and oral histories provided context and a personal touch to this building's history.

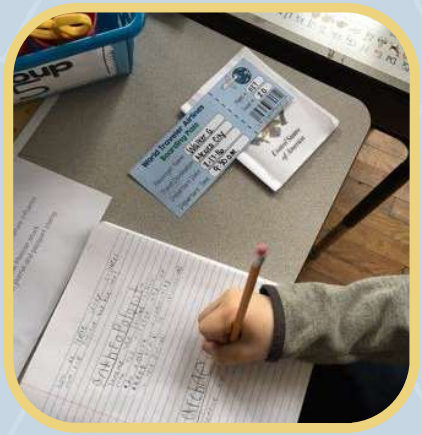
In this story, it is important for us to acknowledge that Claxton Elementary did not exist in a vacuum, but was, and continues to be, part of a greater community. Our local community of Asheville and Buncombe County has experienced an evolution of our schools, including desegregation, integration, and budget cuts with many school communities experiencing a loss of their schools. We acknowledge that it is a privilege to tell the story of a 100 year old building when other schools, especially segregated schools for Black students during desegregation in Asheville and Buncombe County, were closed.

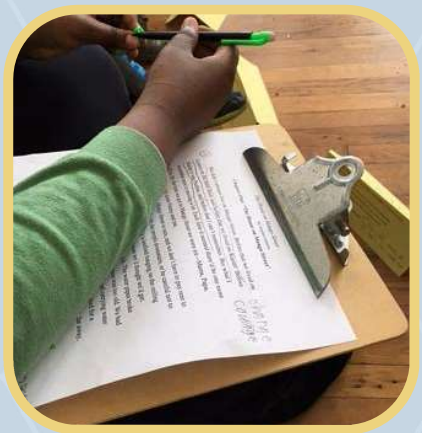
We recognize that the state of public education has undergone many changes based on local, state, and national policies, procedures, funding, and political interests. You will notice our timeline acknowledges other Asheville City Schools or historical events that influenced changes at Claxton Elementary.

We also want to acknowledge the many teachers, instructional assistants, bus drivers, custodians, support staff, nurses, counselors, social workers, front office staff, specialists, instructional coaches, volunteers, tutors, families, and students that made Claxton into the thriving, learning community it continues to be today. To capture a variety of stories, oral histories were conducted and offer a small snapshot into individual experiences and hopes for Claxton Elementary's future. Take a moment to listen to these stories and consider how they are similar or different from your own.

Since its inception as a school community, the Claxton Parent Teacher Organization [PTO] has been an incredible partner and financial support for Claxton Elementary. Thank you to the many families that have contributed to not only this centennial celebration, but in the countless ways through volunteers, programming, resources, and time over the last 100 years.

We hope this exhibit offers a reminder that many people are required to ensure each student receives a supportive and nurturing environment to be a lifelong learner.





CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

City Schools Will Open Tomorrow With Largest Enrollment in History

More than 7,500 pupils will enroll in the Asheville city schools, when they opened their doors for the 1923-24 session Monday.

This will be the largest enrollment in the history of Asheville city schools, and will mark a new epoch in the public school system of this city.

Two new buildings, Newton and Vance will be opened for the first time. These new buildings are a part of the $400,000 program that was started by Asheville several years ago. The Stephens-Lee school, for colored children, was completed last spring at cost of $125,000.

The Claxton school building, at the intersection of Hilliida street and Merrimon avenue, will be ready about the first of the year. The three new schools will seat more than 2000 pupils. Fully this number was on part-time instruction last year.

The West Asheville building is the largest of the three. It seats 750 pupils, as compared with 600 for Newton and 675 for the Claxton school.

Reaches 7,400

The total enrollment of 1922-23 session reached 7,400, as compared with 6,848 for the 1921-22 term. This is an increase of about ten per cent. This has been the average increase for the past three years. Several years ago, the schools showed a remarkable increase, the total enrollment more than doubling in five years.

The school authorities estimate the total enrollment of both white and colored schools will reach 8,000, setting a new record for local registration.

The enrollment at the Asheville high school will surpass the 1,000-mark, according to estimates of Principal A. J. Hutchins. It is probable that it will reach 1,000.

A new epoch will be made with the opening of the high school. Given a rating recently by state school education officials as the best high school in North Carolina, the principal and members of the faculty will be faced with the problem of maintaining this high standard.

In addition to having the highest rating of any high school in North Carolina, it also had the largest enrollment of the last session. It is assured that the record in this respect will be maintained throughout this term.

School Congestion

The school authorities will be bothered with congestion as usual this year, although not as much as last session.

Congestion in West Asheville has been relieved with the completion of the new school building.

The Newton school, recently completed, will relieve the congestion at Ashland and Murray schools. However, Orange and Montford schools will be faced with the problem of caring for more pupils than can be accommodated at one time. It will be necessary at first to conduct partime classes.

This will be almost entirely relieved when the Claxton school, on Merrimon avenue, is finished. Three new school districts will be created when

The Asheville Times, September 9, 1923

1

1888-1923

After voters in 1887 approved of a new school district, Superintendent Claxton opened Asheville City Schools as its first superintendent.[1] By 1923, 7,500 students were enrolled in Asheville City Schools, which was the largest it had up to that point. Three new buildings were opened that year, Vance [Lucy S. Herring Elementary], Newton, and Stephens-Lee [Stephens-Lee Community Center].

E ASHEVILLE TIM

ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1924

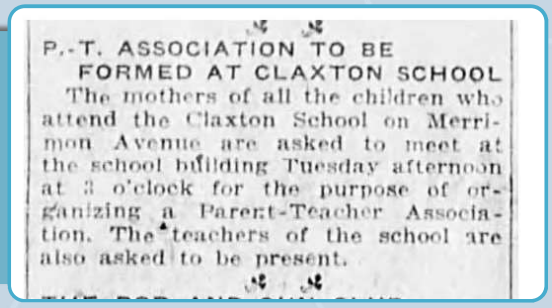
NEW SCHOOL WILL OPEN MONDAY

The Asheville Times, February 3, 1924

February 4, 1924

2

Land was purchased in 1922 and a building was designed by architect, Ronald Greene.[2] Greene also designed the high school for Black students, Stephens-Lee. On February 4, 1924, Claxton Grammar School opened and welcomed 625 White students.



P.-T. ASSOCIATION TO BE FORMED AT CLAXTON SCHOOL

The mothers of all the children who attend the Claxton School on Merrimon Avenue are asked to meet at the school building Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock for the purpose of organizing a Parent-Teacher Association. The teachers of the school are also asked to be present.

The Asheville Times, February 3, 1924

3

1924

Parent Teacher Association [PTA] was formally established.

1926

4

A building addition was opened and it provided twelve more rooms for Claxton Elementary. The new Mountain Street School was also opened for Black children to attend. Schools were segregated and, by 1926, Black students in Asheville City could only attend Hill Street School [currently Isaac Dickson Elementary], Mountain Street School [currently ACS Central Office], and Stephens-Lee High School.[3]

Addition to Claxton School

The Asheville Times, January 10, 1926

1 "A historical sketch of local public schools,"The Sunday Citizen [Asheville Citizen-Times], September 28, 1919

2 "Park views: Stephens-Lee Community Center." City of Asheville. ashevillenc.gov/news/park-views-stephens-lee-community-center/. Published March 2, 2023.

3 "Celebrating Asheville Educator Lucy Saunders Herring." UNC Asheville Special Collections & University Archives. libjournals.unca.edu/specialcollections/uncategorized/celebrating-asheville-educator-lucy-saunders-herring/ Published October 23, 2020.

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

5

1934

The Great Depression hit Asheville's economy, which caused Asheville High to temporarily close in 1933. Those students were sent to two junior high schools, David Millard and Hall Fletcher. By 1934, Asheville High [Renamed Lee Edwards in 1935] was reopened and improvements were made in ACS schools.[4] Claxton continued to serve its students, but it is not clear if enrollment was effected.

Improvement Program At Schools Completed

Asheville's public school buildings are in better condition than for a number of years following practical completion of an improvement program, city school officials said yesterday.

A number of relief painters, plasterers and carpenters were added to the school forces through the cooperation of Miss E. Grace Miller, director of city relief, and work that ordinarily would have cost $22,000 was done with a budget increase for this years of only $6,000. Also helping, on one project, were workers from the transient relief center headed by Miss Jean Patton.

One of the outstanding improvements in renovation of the Eugene Rankin elementary school auditorium. Other work included:

Improvement of campus and playground at Hill Street negro school; installation of eight additional windows to improve lighting in six classrooms of Vance elementary school; renovation of the auditoriums of of Vance and Newton elementary schools; painting, calcimining or cleaning of all classrooms in all elementary schools; painting of concrete walls in the basement of Senior High school on McDowell street to afford better light; painting and repairing of outside doors and other trimmings at Senior High school and some interior repairs; repairing and painting of exterior trimmings at other city schools; and addition of a new coal range in the kitchen of Claxton elementary school.

YOUTH ON TRIAL FOR CO-ED DEATH

The Asheville Times, September 5, 1934

Note: *the terms "Negro" or "Colored" were common for this time period, but are no longer appropriate terms and can be seen as harmful when used today. It is appropriate to use "Black" or "African American."*

6

1941

Third graders at Claxton knitted blankets to support British children during World War II. This article was published on November 6, 1941, which was before the United States was officially involved in World War II. The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 triggered United States involvement.[5]

Third Graders Knit Afghans For Britain

This group of children is part of Miss Louise Northington's 3rd grade class of 38 children at Claxton school engaged in Junior Red Cross activity. Approximately one-third of the children have learned to knit since the first of October and in that time have made enough 6-inch squares for two baby afghans to be sent to England. Shown in the picture, from left to right, are: Elaine Keams, Julia Boyd, Mary Ann Nierberg and Jill Barker. The afghan spread on the table was made by children in the past, and young Barker is holding some of the squares from a basket filled with enough for another afghan.

Walter Britt Succumbs To Heart Attack

(Continued From Page One)

THIRD GRADE PUPILS AT CLAXTON SCHOOL KNITTIN' FOR BRITAIN

The third grade pupils of Miss Louise Northington at Claxton school, have taken up knitting for the Junior Red Cross this fall, and already have completed enough five-inch squares to make two baby afghans to be sent to England.

Only a few of the children knew the rudiments of knitting when the project was undertaken the first of October, and nearly one-third of the class enrollment of 38 pupils now is working on the squares, after taking instruction from their teacher.

Much of the yarn was donated by children from other classes in the school, and some was bought by the children themselves. All colors are used in the afghans, and this enables the children to work up scraps of yarn that might otherwise be thrown away.

This class is 100 per cent enrolled in the Junior Red Cross. Their teacher reports, and those who are not knitting are making Thanksgiving favors to be sent to the patients at Oteen.

They recently filled Christmas boxes for the children of England and made menu covers for men serving on U. S. naval vessels in foreign ports.

EBBS IS MADE LIFE MEMBER OF ASHEVILLE ELKS

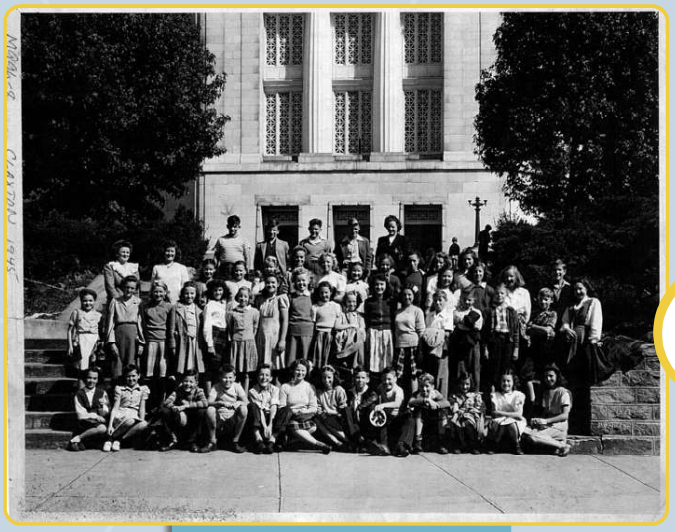
Local Club Celebrates Twentieth Anniversary Of Founding.

A feature of last night's program commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Asheville Elks lodge, held at the new home, 292 Haywood street, was the presentation of an honorary life membership to Plato Ebbs, former state senator from Buncombe county. Mr. Ebbs has been active in the lodge since its organization and has

The Asheville Times, November 6, 1941

7

1945



Buncombe County Special Collections, Pack Memorial Public Library

This digital print was from Richard N. McCurry [far left, back row] of class portrait in front of Claxton School in 1945. Mrs. Jones was the teacher.

[4] Buncombe County Special Collections, Pack Memorial Library

[5] Library of Congress. loc.gov/classroom-materials/united-states-history-primary-source-timeline/great-depression-and-world-war-ii-1929-1945/world-war-ii

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1949

8

Though segregated, over the years, more schools were built in Asheville City Schools to accommodate community needs.

Southern Appalachian Digital Collections, 1952

City School Enrollment Figures Given

Asheville Citizen-Times, September 9, 1949

Enrollment in city schools totals 6,918 pupils, Superintendent J. W. Byers announced yesterday.

Of the total, 4,975 are in white schools and 1,943 are in Negro schools.

Enrollment by schools follows: Lee Edwards High School, 1,014; David Millard Junior High School, 719; Hall Fletcher Junior High School, 502; Aycock Elementary School, 464; Queen Carson Elementary, 290; Claxton Elementary, 760; Newton Elementary, 333; William Randolph Elementary, 109; Vance, 497; and Eugene Rankin, 287.

Stephens-Lee Negro High School, 741, Burton Street Elementary, 81; Hill Street, 388; Livingston Street, 413; and Mountain Street, 430.

Schools for White students

Schools for Black students

9

1952

This photograph was taken by the Asheville Citizen-Times and shows Darlene McFee singing at Claxton. Founder and director of the Mountain Youth Jamboree, Hubert H. Hayes [1901-1964] auditioned and directed youth to perform in folk dance, music, and folk and ballad singing. The jamboree was held in the Asheville City Auditorium [now known as Thomas Wolfe Auditorium] from 1948 to 1973. Hubert Hayes was an author, playwright, and alumni of Duke University.[6]

1957

10

Asheville City Schools celebrated its 70th year. Three years earlier, in 1954, Brown vs. Board of Education ruled that "separate but equal" schools were not constitutional.[7]
By 1957, Asheville City Schools and Buncombe County Schools were still segregated.

Asheville's Public School System Is 70 Years Old

The Asheville Citizen, March 28, 1957

By LUTHER W. SHAW

Seventy years ago in July, residents of Asheville went to the polls to cast their votes for and against a public school system here.

Heated campaigns had been waged by factions on either side, but on the night of July 31, 1887 when the last ballot had been counted, there was a clear majority of two votes in favor of establishing a public school system for the city.

At that time there were 1,- qualified voters in Asheville, that was the beginning of a public education system here.

In January, 1888, the public school system was established, the first public school was located in the old Asheville Male Academy on Academy Street, now Montford Avenue. The site was that of the present William Randolph School. The first public school for Negroes was located on Beaumont Street.

* * *

Philander P. Claxton of Tennessee, who later became U. S. Commissioner of Education, was the first school superintendent.

The first school board of the Asheville City School met for organization in the City Hall August 8, 1887. The oath of office was administered by Mayor L. S. Harkins. W. W. West was chairman of the first board and W. F. Randolph was secretary. Other members were L. A. Gudger, Dr. David T. Dillard, S. S. Kesler and Isaac Dickson. The Negroes in Asheville had their representative in Dickson whose years on the board were marked with honorable and conscientious service.

The "West" board continued with few changes until the early 1900s when West resigned to be replaced by W. F. Snider. From that time to the present chairman of the board have been Dr. John H. Williams, George A. Shuford, W. M. Jones, W. R. Northup, J. E. Rankin, Gellatly Roberts, John H. Cathey, W. Vance Brown, R. H. McDuffie, Edward N. Wright, W. M. Smathers, W. Randall Harris, Pearce Henderson, Herbert E. Johnson, and Charles G. Tennent.

* * *

The Academy Street School building was opened for classes January 9, 1888 and during the following 90 days of operation, 404 students were enrolled. The grades were only classified through the fifth year because of insufficient space and teachers. Students ready for higher classes had to be turned away.

The attendance for that first term at the Negro school was approximately 300 students.

Another white school was opened in December of that year on Orange Street. This school included eight grades, the seventh and eighth counting as the high school department.

Serious financial troubles were in store for the school committee for the next few years. The board of aldermen raised the school tax rate to 30 cents in 1890. The poll tax was raised to 90 cents that year.

The next school building erected was at Bailey Street, (now Ashland Avenue,) and Oliver Street. It was opened in the fall of 1892. A new building was then constructed on Montford Avenue and a new Negro school was built on Catholic Hill. The ninth grade was added to the system in 1895.

The panic of 1893 added to the financial fears of the school board. The legislature of 1895 limited the school tax to 20 cents and the poll tax to 60 cents and placed control of school funds in the hands of the board of aldermen. As a result of a petition by the school committee, the aldermen called an election on the issuance of $25,000 in bonds in 1894. The election carried and was the first bond issue for the public schools.

* * *

The Murray school was opened in September, 1908 and was named for J. L. Murray who had established an educational fund from his estate to be used by the city.

The old Newton school on South Main Street, now Biltmore Avenue, was opened in 1907 for white children but remained open only two years because of the bad condition of the building.

An outstanding chapter in the history of public schools here was the erection of David Millard high school, now being used as a junior high school. The property was the old Asheville Female College. Bonds totaling $28,875 were sold in 1907, $4,000 of which was used to repair the structure. The high school department was opened there in January, 1908.

No extensions were made in buildings from 1910 until 1920, though a tenth grade had been added. The enrollment, according to a report published in the "Asheville Daily Citizen," increased during this period from 1,200 to 2,300 and conditions were crowded.

A campaign was begun by various citizens and in 1921 another election was held on the issuance of $10,000 in bonds. With this money, Pork Avenue School was built. Soon afterward, the Hill Street School property was acquired and a school was built there for Negroes.

Agitation for compulsory education developed but a bill providing for it in Asheville was defeated in the legislature in 1903. Two years later, it was ratified. The same act provided also for the sale of $50,000 in bonds for the erection and equipment for additional buildings.

Four years later the statewide compulsory school law was passed.

In 1905, the city limits were extended and the school population rose in 1909 to 4,585. Negro schools on Livingston Street and Mountain Street were opened to take care of the increasing number of that period.

* * *

The new school building built by $200,000 on bonds was opened in 1919 although a second bond election for an additional $200,000 became necessary due to the rising costs resulting from World War I.

From 1920 to 1930, three bond issues amounting to 2 million dollars were voted. Construction of seven schools was thus made possible—Claxton, Vance, Stephens-Lee, Newton, Hall Fletcher, Eugene Rankin and Asheville Senior High School (Lee H. Edwards).

The depression hit public schools here hard and in 1933, the State, first in the nation to take such a step, assumed their operation as an eight-months basis.

Lee H. Edwards High School, constructed at a cost of more than $1,000,000 on McDowell Street, is still recognized as one of the finest educational plants in this section of the country. Lee H. Edwards was the first principal of the senior high school.

* * *

A summary of the history of the public schools of Asheville is not complete without the mention of the work of Rowland Hill Latham, superintendent of schools from 1934 to 1944. Latham guided the schools through one of the most difficult periods in their history, assuming his position as superintendent as the depression of the 1930s was being most keenly felt.

Latham was succeeded in January 1945 by J. W. Byers who held the position until April 1956 when he resigned to become executive vice president of Asheville Federal Savings and Loan Association.

He was followed by Earl C. Funderburk, present Asheville city schools superintendent.

When Byers assumed office, elementary schools were beginning to bear the approaching patter of little feet which is presently forcing city school officials to search for new space and additional teachers.

These children were the "war babies" and by 1950 the school population of Buncombe County alone was 16,500 pupils. Classroom space could accommodate only 12,900.

Significant during Byers' administration was a countywide school bond issue of $ 1-2 million which was voted in 1949 with a state supplement of $300,000 to support an all-out school construction program.

At no time in the city's history had the need for new school buildings been greater. A year before the bond issue was voted, State Fire Marshal Sherwood Brockwell condemned William Randolph Elementary School and Asheland Avenue School as fire hazards. A total of 650 children were consequently put out of their classrooms.

William Randolph, 1112 Street, Aycock and Livingston Street schools have been completed since 1950 and additions made to each. Renovations, additions and repairs have been made at most of the city's other schools since 1950.

In 1953 the state issued a $50-million school building fund bond from which Asheville City Schools received a total of $600,127—$291,343 in 1953 and, $308,914 last year.

Allocation of the total 50 million has figured out to be an average of $15.8 per pupil on a statewide basis.

The present Asheville city school enrollment is 8,452. The city, according to Funderburk, is facing the greatest building and teacher shortage in its history.

THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN, ASHEVILLE, N. C. 24
Thursday, March 28, 1957

6 "Darlene McFee," Southern Appalachian Digital Collections. southernappalachiandigitalcollections.org/object/38977

7 "Brown v Board of Education." National Archives. archives.gov/milestone-documents/brown-v-board-of-education

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Appendix 1-b
Asheville City Schools

II. Racial Distribution of Pupils and Professional Staff 1962-1963

School	Grades	Enrollment White	Enrollment Negro	Staff White	Staff Negro
Aycock Elementary	1-6	567	0	23	0
Burton Elementary	1-7	0	114	0	4
Claxton Elementary	1-6	574	46	21	0
David Millard Jr. High	7-9	901	0	38	0
Hall Fletcher Jr. High	7-9	507	0	32	0
Herring Elementary	1-7	0	409	0	16
Hill Elementary	1-8	0	873	0	31
Jones Elementary	1-7	800	0	28	0
Lee Edwards High	10-12	1479	0	65	0
Livingston Elementary	1-7	0	692	0	35
Newton Elementary	1-6	284	30	14	0
Randolph Elementary	1-7	526	0	23	0
Rankin Elementary	1-6	339	0	15	0
Stephens-Lee High	9-12	0	714	0	31
Vance Elementary	1-6	647	0	24	0
TOTAL		6624	2878	283	117

"Plan for the Asheville City Schools for the Desegregation of its School System in Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964," adopted 6 July 1965, A. Allen Gardner Collection, Special Collections, D. Hiden Ramsey Library, University of North Carolina at Asheville.

11

1962

Due to a desegregation order, Asheville City Schools began integrating schools in 1961 and Black students were enrolled into White schools. 1962 was the first year Claxton Elementary had Black students enrolled. This appendix [left] shows the enrollment of Black and White students and staff at each Asheville City School building for 1962–1963. Black student enrollment at Claxton increased from 46 to 54 by 1965 while White student enrollment increased from 574 to 620.

By 1965, Stephens-Lee High was closed and students were transferred to South French Broad High.

Enrollment Dips 3.5 P.C. In City School System

Migration to the suburbs and soaring private school enrollments were given as prime reasons for a 3.5 per cent drop in enrollment in Asheville city schools for the second consecutive year.

City Supt. W. P. Griffin reported an enrollment of 9,147 yesterday — down 333 from the enrollment total of 9,480 a year ago.

This year's enrollment, he said, is as follows: elementary, 6,160; high school, 2,795; and "special education" youngsters who have difficulty keeping up with their classmates: 192. The number of special education students is up from 136 a year ago.

The superintendent accounted for the enrollment decline by saying that "more people are moving to the suburbs" and outside the bounds served by city schools.

Also, Griffin added, "private school enrollment has increased considerably in the last three years" at the expense of public schools.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed yesterday that the City Board of Education plans a study on the overall pupil enrollment decline, which they expect will continue another two or three years.

Philip N. Sales, vice chairman, said "we're planning to get some study information together" to find out the effect of desegregation of city schools on enrollment.

"We are going to tabulate the number of children by races in various schools to see if we note any drastic change we can't account for by other reasons. It's just for our information," Sales added. "We're not trying to prove a point or disprove a point."

Another formerly all-Negro school was desegregated yesterday as at least three white youngsters showed up for classes at Hill Street Elementary School. Negroes constituted the remainder of the 439 pupils in grades one through seven. Hill Street School also record 72 students in a vocational rehabilitation class, about half and half white and Negro, who work part-time and attend class part-time.

Griffin did not have available a breakdown of the white-Negro enrollment at all city schools, saying this would be compiled later.

A spot check with school principals indicated the following situation.

Aycock Elementary School, about 90 Negroes out of an enrollment of 623 including "special education" pupils. The school has two Negro teachers and 21 white teachers.

Claxton Elementary School, 10 to 20 per cent Negroes out of 654 students.

David Millard Junior High School, no data on Negroes among the 756 pupils. The school has two Negro teachers out of a staff of 38 including the principal.

Newton Elementary, about 34-35 Negroes out of an enrollment of 296. The school has one Negro teacher and 11 white instructors plus a white librarian.

William Randolph Elementary, no data on Negroes out of the 511 enrollment. The school has three Negro teachers and 17 white teachers.

Lee Edwards High, no data on Negroes among the 1,649 students. The school has three Negro teachers and 72 white teachers.

South French Broad High, its 776 students are all Negro. It has four white teachers and a white principal out of a staff of 38.

Hill Street Elementary, has about three white students among its 439 pupils. Its 18 teachers are all Negroes. The vocational rehabilitation class for 75 students has three Negro and one white teacher.

Vance Elementary, with 704 pupils, remains all white in enrollment and faculty.

Livingston Street Elementary remains all Negro with 564 pupils and 25 teachers.

Jones Elementary School, had an enrollment of 736 pupils, all of them white. The school has an all-white faculty.

Racial data was not available for Eugene Rankin Elementary, enrollment 327; Hall Fletcher Junior High, 726; and Herring Elementary, 369.

An official at all-Negro South French Broad High said the first day enrollment there declined by 75 students, who apparently transferred either to other city or county schools.

Burton Street Elementary School in West Asheville, a Negro institution, was closed this year and all its students were transferred to Aycock Elementary.

In other school activity in religious, private and other schools here, Asheville School for Boys has a 178 enrollment of eighth through 12th graders. Classes begin Sept. 15. Enrollment is up about 20 over last year due to renovations and a dormitory providing more bed space.

Asheville Catholic High School has registered some 140 students in grades nine through 12. About 15 of the students are Negro. Ninth graders will attend their first day of classes at 8:40 a. m. Wednesday while all other students will report Thursday at 8:45 a. m.

Allen High School will open classes Tuesday, Sept. 6.

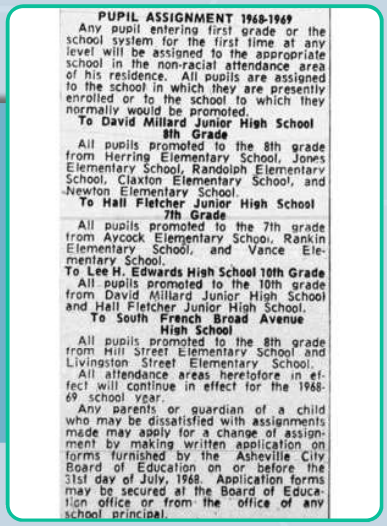
Buncombe County schools opened last Thursday, but enrollment data won't be available until Friday, according to Supt. T. C. Roberson.

The Asheville Times, August 30, 1966

12

1969

School assignments were still shifting to attempt to integrate schools, but it was not until 1969, that all high school students go to Asheville High School and South French Broad High becomes Asheville Middle School.



PUPIL ASSIGNMENT 1968-1969

Any pupil entering first grade or the school system for the first time at any level will be assigned to the appropriate school in the non-racial attendance area of his residence. All pupils are assigned to the school in which they are presently enrolled or to the school to which they normally would be promoted.

To David Millard Junior High School 8th Grade

All pupils promoted to the 8th grade from Herring Elementary School, Jones Elementary School, Randolph Elementary School, Claxton Elementary School, and Newton Elementary School.

To Hall Fletcher Junior High School 7th Grade

All pupils promoted to the 7th grade from Aycock Elementary School, Rankin Elementary School, and Vance Elementary School.

To Lee H. Edwards High School 10th Grade

All pupils promoted to the 10th grade from David Millard Junior High School and Hall Fletcher Junior High School.

To South French Broad Avenue High School

All pupils promoted to the 8th grade from Hill Street Elementary School and Livingston Street Elementary School.

All attendance areas heretofore in effect will continue in effect for the 1968-69 school year.

Any parents or guardian of a child who may be dissatisfied with assignments made may apply for a change of assignment by making written application on forms furnished by the Asheville City Board of Education on or before the 31st day of July, 1968. Application forms may be secured at the Board of Education office or from the office of any school principal.

The Asheville Times, June 10, 1968

Photo: Asheville Citizen-Times, 1969
Caption: Mountain Xpress, 2017

The caption as it appeared in the Sept. 30, 1969, edition: Police chased one group of demonstrating students from the grounds of Asheville High School on Sept. 29, 1969, during a disturbance at the school. As one group of students departed, others stormed the new Vocational Education Building nearby with sticks and stones, causing extensive damage to the

As Black and White students merged into one school, tensions were high and Black students did not feel welcome. Students organized a walkout at Asheville High, which led to a clash with police and citywide curfews.[8]

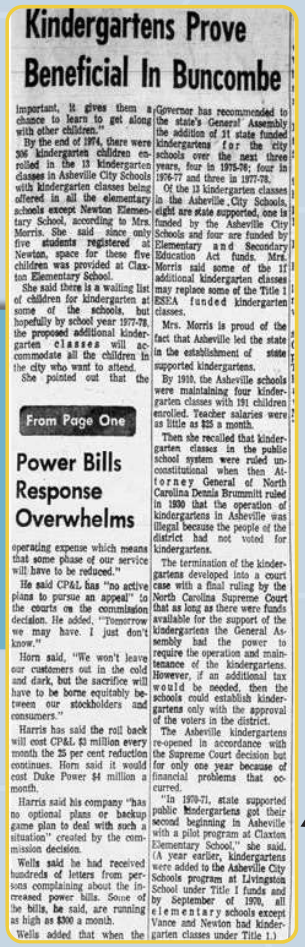
[8] "Tuesday History: Newspaper Coverage of the Asheville High walkout, 1969, Mountain Xpress, August 15, 2017 mountainx.com/news/tuesday-history-newspaper-coverage-of-the-asheville-high-walkout-1969

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

13

1975

Across the state, kindergarten was being explored as a new grade to add to the elementary schools. With a grant received from North Carolina, Claxton Elementary piloted the first kindergarten class in 1970–71 for Asheville City Schools.



Kindergartens Prove Beneficial In Buncombe

important. It gives them a chance to learn to get along with other children."

By the end of 1974, there were 306 kindergarten children enrolled in the 13 kindergarten classes in Asheville City Schools with kindergarten classes being offered in all the elementary schools except Newton Elementary School, according to Mrs. Morris. She said since only five students registered at Newton, space for these five children was provided at Claxton Elementary School.

She said there is a waiting list of children for kindergarten at some of the schools, but hopefully by school year 1977-78, the proposed additional kindergarten classes will accommodate all the children in the city who want to attend.

She pointed out that the

From Page One

Power Bills Response Overwhelms

operating expense which means that some phase of our service will have to be reduced."

He said CP&L has "no active plans to pursue an appeal" to the courts on the commission decision. He added, "Tomorrow we may have. I just don't know."

Horn said, "We won't leave our customers out in the cold and dark, but the sacrifice will have to be borne equitably between our stockholders and consumers."

Harris has said the roll back will cost CP&L $3 million every month the 25 per cent reduction continues. Horn said it would cost Duke Power $4 million a month.

Harris said his company "has no optional plans or backup game plan to deal with such a situation" created by the commission decision.

Wells said he had received hundreds of letters from persons complaining about the increased power bills. Some of the bills, he said, are running as high as $300 a month.

Governor has recommended to the state's General Assembly the addition of 31 state funded kindergartens for the city schools over the next three years, four in 1975-76; four in 1976-77 and three in 1977-78.

Of the 13 kindergarten classes in the Asheville City Schools, eight are state supported, one is funded by the Asheville City Schools and four are funded by Elementary and Secondary Education Act funds. Mrs. Morris said some of the 17 additional kindergarten classes may replace some of the Title 1 ESEA funded kindergarten classes.

Mrs. Morris is proud of the fact that Asheville led the state in the establishment of state supported kindergartens.

By 1910, the Asheville schools were maintaining four kindergarten classes with 191 children enrolled. Teacher salaries were as little as $25 a month.

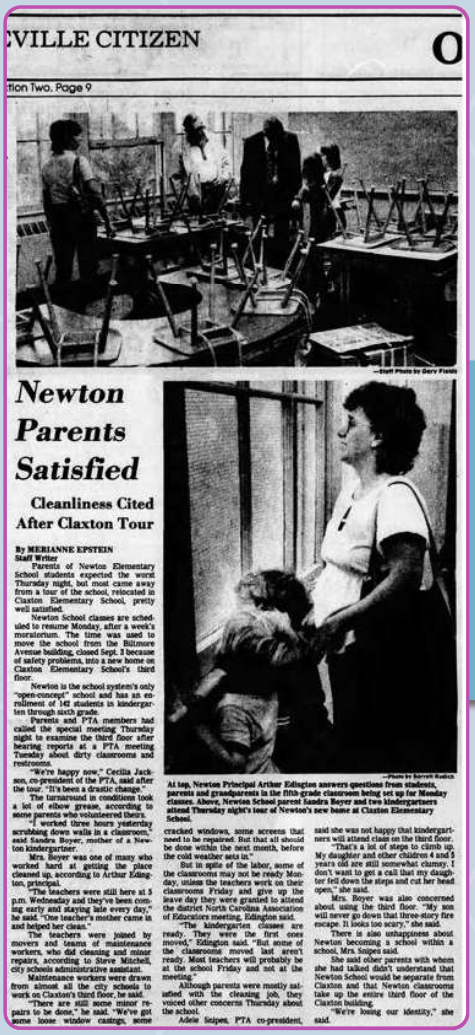
Then she recalled that kindergarten classes in the public school system were ruled unconstitutional when then Attorney General of North Carolina Dennis Brummitt ruled in 1930 that the operation of kindergartens in Asheville was illegal because the people of the district had not voted for kindergartens.

The termination of the kindergartens developed into a court case with a final ruling by the North Carolina Supreme Court that as long as there were funds available for the support of the kindergartens the General Assembly had the power to require the operation and maintenance of the kindergartens. However, if an additional tax would be needed, then the schools could establish kindergartens only with the approval of the voters in the district.

The Asheville kindergartens re-opened in accordance with the Supreme Court decision but for only one year because of financial problems that occurred.

"In 1970-71, state supported public kindergartens got their second beginning in Asheville with a pilot program at Claxton Elementary School," she said. (A year earlier, kindergartens were added to the Asheville City Schools program at Livingston School under Title I funds and by September of 1970, all elementary schools except Vance and Newton had kindergarten classes under Title I.)

The Asheville Times, February 3, 1975



CVILLE CITIZEN O

tion Two. Page 9

Newton Parents Satisfied

Cleanliness Cited After Claxton Tour

By MERIANNE EPSTEIN
Staff Writer

Parents of Newton Elementary School students expected the worst Thursday night, but most came away from a tour of the school, relocated in Claxton Elementary School, pretty well satisfied.

Newton School classes are scheduled to resume Monday, after a week's moratorium. The time was used to move the school from the Biltmore Avenue building, closed Sept. 3 because of safety problems, into a new home on Claxton Elementary School's third floor.

Newton is the school system's only "open-concept" school and has an enrollment of 142 students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

Parents and PTA members had called the special meeting Thursday night to examine the third floor after hearing reports at a PTA meeting Tuesday about dirty classrooms and restrooms.

"We're happy now," Cecilia Jackson, co-president of the PTA, said after the tour. "It's been a drastic change."

The turnaround in conditions took a lot of elbow grease, according to some parents who volunteered theirs.

"I worked three hours yesterday scrubbing down walls in a classroom," said Sandra Boyer, mother of a Newton kindergartner.

Mrs. Boyer was one of many who worked hard at getting the place cleaned up, according to Arthur Edgington, principal.

"The teachers were still here at 5 p.m. Wednesday and they've been coming early and staying late every day," he said. "One teacher's mother came in and helped her clean."

The teachers were joined by movers and teams of maintenance workers, who did cleaning and minor repairs, according to Steve Mitchell, city schools administrative assistant.

Maintenance workers were drawn from almost all the city schools to work on Claxton's third floor, he said.

"There are still some minor repairs to be done," he said. "We've got some loose window casings, some cracked windows, some screens that need to be repaired. But that all should be done within the next month, before the cold weather sets in."

But in spite of the labor, some of the classrooms may not be ready Monday, unless the teachers work on their classrooms Friday and give up the leave day they were granted to attend the district North Carolina Association of Educators meeting, Edington said.

"The kindergarten classes are ready. They were the first ones moved," Edington said. "But some of the classrooms moved last aren't ready. Most teachers will probably be at the school Friday and not at the meeting."

Although parents were mostly satisfied with the cleaning job, they voiced other concerns Thursday about the school.

Adele Snipes, PTA co-president, said she was not happy that kindergartners will attend class on the third floor.

"That's a lot of steps to climb up. My daughter and other children 4 and 5 years old are still somewhat clumsy. I don't want to get a call that my daughter fell down the steps and cut her head open," she said.

Mrs. Boyer was also concerned about using the third floor. "My son will never go down that three-story fire escape. It looks too scary," she said.

There is also unhappiness about Newton becoming a school within a school, Mrs. Snipes said.

She said other parents with whom she had talked didn't understand that Newton School would be separate from Claxton and that Newton classrooms take up the entire third floor of the Claxton building.

"We're losing our identity," she said.

At top, Newton Principal Arthur Edington answers questions from students, parents and grandparents in the fifth-grade classroom being set up for Monday classes. Above, Newton School parent Sandra Boyer and two kindergartners attend Thursday night's tour of Newton's new home at Claxton Elementary School.

Asheville Citizen-Times, September 10, 1982

14

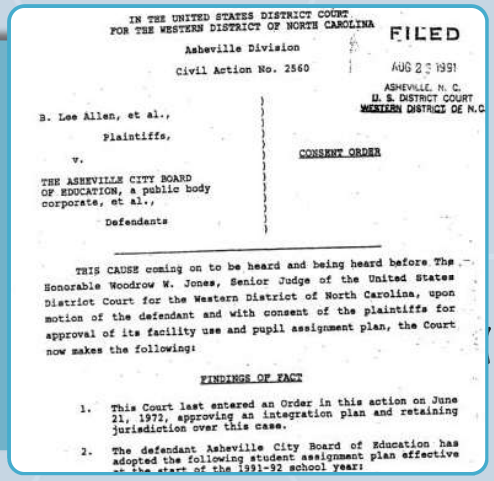
1982

Newton Elementary School [formerly Newton Academy] was the fourth school building on Biltmore Avenue and was built in 1922. As the first log school west of the Blue Ridge Mountains, it was founded in 1792 as Union Hill School. The school was rebuilt and was renamed Newton Academy after Rev. George Newton, who was headmaster in 1797. It underwent a rebuild in 1858 and again in 1922. It was closed in 1982 and students were relocated to Claxton Elementary. Newton Elementary was torn down soon after.[9]

142 Newton School students were on the 3rd floor of Claxton as its own program until they were later merged.

[9] Newton Elementary School, Buncombe County Special Collections, Pack Memorial Library.

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
Asheville Division
Civil Action No. 2560

FILED
AUG 2 3 1991
ASHEVILLE, N. C.
U. S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF N.C.

B. Lee Allen, et al.,
Plaintiffs,
v.
THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION, a public body corporate, et al.,
Defendants

CONSENT ORDER

THIS CAUSE coming on to be heard and being heard before The Honorable Woodrow W. Jones, Senior Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, upon motion of the defendant and with consent of the plaintiffs for approval of its facility use and pupil assignment plan, the Court now makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. This Court last entered an Order in this action on June 21, 1972, approving an integration plan and retaining jurisdiction over this case.
2. The defendant Asheville City Board of Education has adopted the following student assignment plan effective at the start of the 1991-92 school year:

Federal Desegregation Order, Asheville City Schools, ashevillecityschools.net/domain/2578

15

1991

Following a 1991 Federal Asheville City Schools Student Assignment Plan [Desegregation Order], Asheville City Schools implemented a magnet school system to offer "choice" and create more racially balanced schools rather than neighborhood based assignment.

Claxton Elementary became the School of the Arts and Humanities.

G. The sites and initial attendance districts for Claxton Elementary School and Vance Elementary School will remain unchanged from the 1990-91 school year. The projected racial make-ups of the student bodies for 1991-92 are: Claxton - 53% white, 47% minority (compared to 41% white, 59% minority in 1990-91); Vance - 65% white, 35% minority (compared to 69% white, 31% minority in 1990-91). These figures compare to the school system's overall projected composition of 58% white, 42% minority, and the projected composition in grades kindergarten through 5 of 61% white, 39% minority.

Federal Desegregation Order, Asheville City Schools, ashevillecityschools.net/domain/2578

As a result, some schools shifted dramatically:[10]

- Hall Fletcher Junior High [6–7] became Hall Fletcher Elementary School [K–5]
- Hill Street Middle School [6–7] became Isaac Dickson Elementary School [K–5]
- Asheville Junior High [8–9] became Asheville Middle School [6–8]
- Asheville High School moved from grades 10–12 to 9–12
- Randolph Elementary [4–5] was paired with Ira B. Jones Elementary [K–3] to balance their respective racial demographics
- Aycock, Claxton, and Vance Elementary Schools continued to be K–5 schools
- The Asheville Alternative School [K–5] moved to Asheville Middle from Isaac Dickson

City magnet schools

Asheville City primary and elementary schools are in the spring of their first year within the system's new magnet themes.

And parents next week, March 8 to 12, will have a chance to see for themselves how the new program is going during a system-wide open house of music, forums and presentations.

Applications for children to attend the magnet schools were to be available after March 1, to be returned to the individual schools or the system's central office by April 2, according to Carolyn Mason, with the City Schools.

"Only children new to the system or those wishing to change schools will be required to complete an application for the 1992-93 school year," Mason said, in a release on the open house plans.

"Those children currently enrolled in a school, who do not wish to change schools, will not be required to complete the application form."

In the magnet program, all of the schools offer students the basic core course offerings – reading, spelling, science, social studies, writing, math – and at certain grade levels, Spanish. Services such as guidance counseling, physical education, and special education are available to all, as well.

But each magnet school also offers opportunities according to a theme.

Isaac Dickson Elementary School, grades K-5, plans to offer individual exercise courses – including aerobics, computer science/math, photography, modern dance, music, sign language, public speaking – to strengthen their standard course of study.

Claxton Elementary School for Arts and Humanities will be organized around school-wide units of study incorporating arts and humanities studies into the basic courses. Artist in residence programs, a Habitat for Humanity project and a spring musical are being considered for the year.

A new partnership with the UNC-A drama department will bring university students and faculty into Claxton classrooms, too.

Hall Fletcher School for Science, Math and Technology boasts a computer lab of 21 Macintosh LC computers for eight classrooms in grades 1 to 5 and a computer lab with 30 computers for the school's Chapter 1 program.

More computer offerings are being sought, and plans are in place to design and develop a garden, nature trail and bird station.

At Vance School of Classical Studies, symphony assistants are presenting grade level programs, and students are producing their own in-house television program to broadcast announcements and recognize school projects and artistic phenomena.

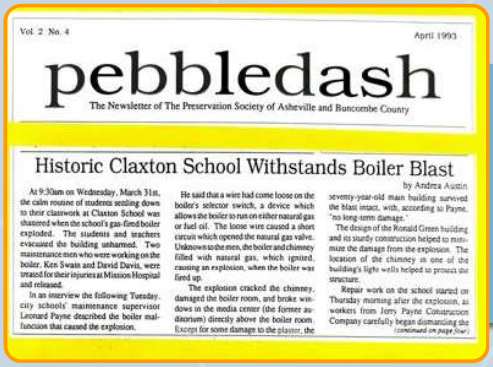
"Future plans at Vance include increased use of the curricular approach to learning, development of an art gallery for an area of the school, and increased leadership opportunities for students," Mason said.

Isaac Dickson Experiential School is planning "immersion" field trips and a program for outdoor/environmental studies.

In the coming school year, five classes will take part in "Creative Problem" programs in which students can be assigned to mixed-age classes or as tutors. There will be three classes for students in kindergarten to 2nd grade, two classes for students in grades 3 and 4.

Claxton Scrapbook, 1992

Claxton Elementary, 2013



Vol. 2 No. 4 April 1993

pebbledash

The Newsletter of The Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County

Historic Claxton School Withstands Boiler Blast

by Andrea Austin

At 9:30am on Wednesday, March 31st, the calm routine of students sending down to their classwork at Claxton School was shattered when the school's gas-fired boiler exploded. The students and teachers evacuated the building unharmed. Two maintenance men who were working on the boiler, Ken Swain and David Davis, were treated for their injuries at Mission Hospital and released.

In an interview the following Tuesday, city schools' maintenance supervisor Leonard Payne described the boiler malfunction that caused the explosion.

He said that a wire had come loose on the boiler's selector switch, a device which allows the boiler to run on either natural gas or fuel oil. The loose wire caused a short circuit which opened the natural gas valve. Unknown to the men, the boiler and chimney filled with natural gas, which ignited, causing an explosion, when the boiler was fired up.

The explosion cracked the chimney, damaged the boiler room, and broke windows in the media center (the former auditorium) directly above the boiler room. Except for some damage to the plaster, the seventy-year-old main building survived the blast intact, with, according to Payne, "no long-term damage."

The design of the Ronald Green building and its sturdy construction helped to minimize the damage from the explosion. The location of the chimney as one of the building's light wells helped to protect the structure.

Repair work on the school started on Thursday morning after the explosion, as workers from Jerry Payne Construction Company carefully began dismantling the

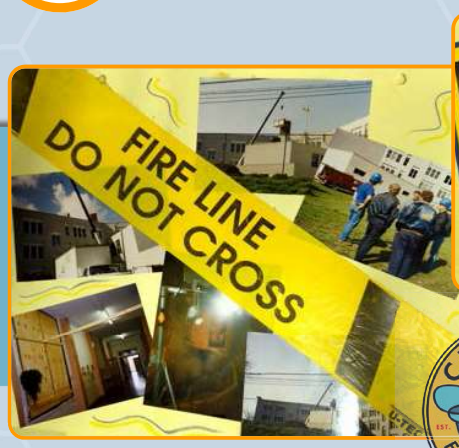
(continued on page four)

Claxton Scrapbook, 1993

16

1993

In the spring of 1993, the boiler, located underneath the media center, exploded and rocked the building. No one was injured, but 320 students were evacuated and sent home for a few days. Until repairs were complete, students were asked to wear warmer clothing in order to keep school in session.



[10] 1991 Federal Desegregation Order for Asheville City Schools, ashevillecityschools.net/domain/2578

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

17

1998

Claxton celebrated its 75 year anniversary. On June 4, 1992, Claxton Elementary was listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.[11]

Claxton School celebrates 75 years

Asheville Citizen-Times, May 6, 1998

18

1999

Like other Asheville City School buildings, Claxton Elementary was in desperate need of repair. The ACS School Board had to decide if it would close the school or renovate it. The Claxton community advocated for its renovation.

This same year, Claxton received the Governor's Program for Excellence in Education Award. Claxton was recognized for its "innovative arts programs [embedded] into the school's core curriculum, its after school programming, and major events staged by students." According to the article, former music teacher and magnet coordinator for Claxton, Deborah Sizemore, stated that Claxton was on the verge of closing due to low enrollment and little community and family engagement. The magnet program significantly improved its enrollment and student achievement on state tests.[12]

Save Claxton, parents say

School may be demolished so new one can be built

Asheville Citizen-Times, April 21, 1999

Asheville Citizen-Times, April 27, 1999

Repair, don't destroy, Claxton Elementary

19

2005

After various phases of renovations, the K-1 wing was opened, adding eight classrooms specifically for its youngest learners. A new cafeteria and elevator was also added to the main building. New pipes, electricity, heating/cooling, cables for technology, and windows in the main building were also part of the renovation, which cost about $5 million to complete.

Claxton celebrates a new wing

Asheville Citizen-Times, February 14, 2005

H&M Constructors

[11] National Registry of Historic Places, nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/data-downloads.htm

[12] Claxton school wins award for excellence, Asheville Citizen-Times, January 8, 1999

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

2016

20

Claxton Elementary and Claxton Elementary PTO secured a grant through the Bee Cause Project to install an observation bee hive in the media center. The media center was selected as a central location for students and was one of the first hives installed in a school in Western North Carolina. In 2016, the first annual Bee Day was hosted in the media center to celebrate honeybees and learn more about the observation bee hive with student-centered activities. By 2017, Claxton Elementary transitioned from Bears as their mascot to Bees.

Asheville City Schools, May 17, 2019

Claxton Elementary, 2020

21

2020

The COVID-19 global pandemic sent all students in North Carolina home on March 15, 2020 through the end of the year. All staff, students, and their families grappled with what learning from home looked like. Schools learned how to navigate virtual spaces, social distancing, and social and emotional support, all while maintaining a sense of community.

WLOS News, 2020

One of the many creative ways school staff supported in-person learning during the pandemic.

Claxton Elementary

2024

22

Claxton Elementary celebrated its 100th year as a school!

- What are your hopes for the future of Claxton Elementary?
- What are your favorite memories from Claxton Elementary?

Fun Run, Claxton Elementary, 2023

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY EST. 1924 ASHEVILLE, NC

UNC Asheville Center for Diversity Education

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

DR. PHILANDER PRIESTLY CLAXTON 1863-1957

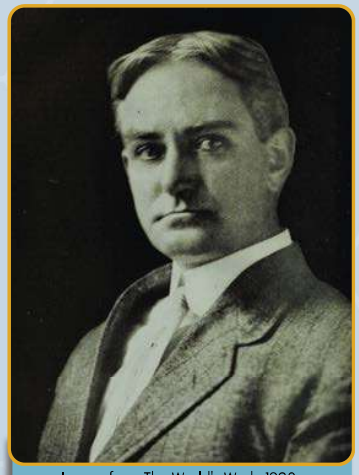
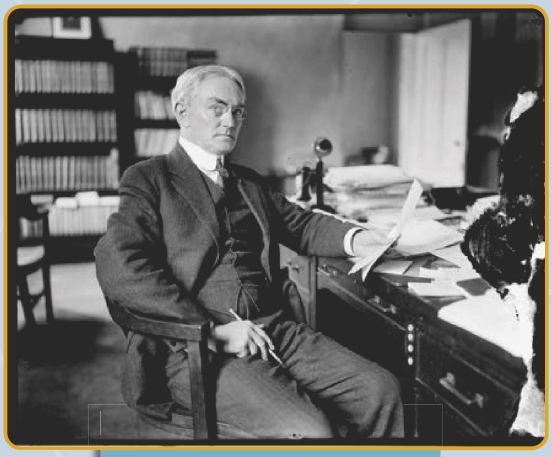


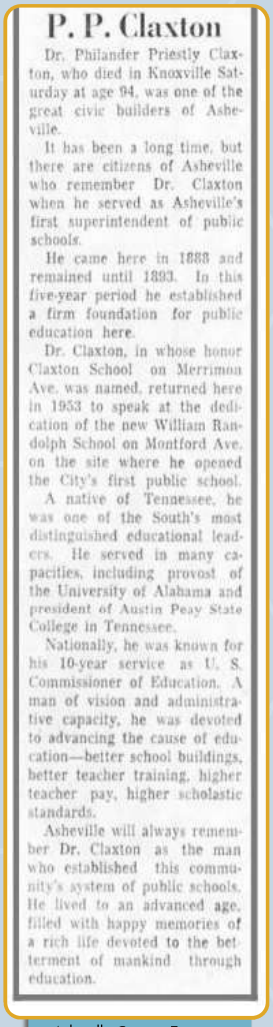
Image from The World's Work, 1920: archive.org/stream/worldswork41gard#page/110/mode/2up

Dr. Philander Claxton was born in 1863 in Tennessee. He attended cabin schools and at the age of 16 was teaching classes for a "remission of fees." [13]
He received his Bachelor's and Master of Arts at the University of Tennessee. After graduation, he went to North Carolina to teach in Goldsboro [1882-83] and the following year, he was superintendent in Kinston schools. In 1884, he attended Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore for a special graduate study in educational methods. He spent the following year traveling through Germany, researching school system, and the cultural philosophy of the country's educational leadership. Later, he also visited England, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, and Germany again in 1896 and returned to Denmark for further observation in 1930.



Commissioner Claxton, Library of Congress loc.gov/resource/hec.14241/

After his first visit abroad, Claxton served as superintendent of schools in Wilson [1886-87] and then went to a similar position in Asheville for six years [1887-93]. By the time he left Asheville City Schools, music, arts and drawing had become a part of the schools curriculum. After these eleven years of public school work in North Carolina, he became in 1893 instructor of pedagogy and German at, what we now know as, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. In 1902, Claxton left North Carolina to become an education professor at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. In 1911, he became the U.S. Commissioner of Education, and served in that position for ten years. [14]



P. P. Claxton

Dr. Philander Priestly Claxton, who died in Knoxville Saturday at age 94, was one of the great civic builders of Asheville.

It has been a long time, but there are citizens of Asheville who remember Dr. Claxton when he served as Asheville's first superintendent of public schools.

He came here in 1888 and remained until 1893. In this five-year period he established a firm foundation for public education here.

Dr. Claxton, in whose honor Claxton School on Merrimon Ave. was named, returned here in 1953 to speak at the dedication of the new William Randolph School on Montford Ave. on the site where he opened the City's first public school.

A native of Tennessee, he was one of the South's most distinguished educational leaders. He served in many capacities, including provost of the University of Alabama and president of Austin Peay State College in Tennessee.

Nationally, he was known for his 10-year service as U. S. Commissioner of Education. A man of vision and administrative capacity, he was devoted to advancing the cause of education—better school buildings, better teacher training, higher teacher pay, higher scholastic standards.

Asheville will always remember Dr. Claxton as the man who established this community's system of public schools. He lived to an advanced age, filled with happy memories of a rich life devoted to the betterment of mankind through education.

Asheville Citizen-Times, January 15, 1957

City's First School Superintendent

Educator's Descendants Return To City

By MARY COWLES

Today his great-grandchildren are enrolled in the school system he founded — but it is pure coincidence.

It fact, the present-day Claxtons lived here several months before they knew that Asheville was one of the several cities in which buildings had been named for that distinguished member of their family. In this case it was Claxton Elementary School.

The Claxtons — two doctors and their five attractive kids — moved here approximately two years ago from Heidelberg, West Germany, where Dr. C. Porter Claxton, a cardiovascular surgeon, had been assigned as chief of surgery at an Army Hospital.

His wife, Dr. Martha Ann Claxton, is a pediatrician.

The Drs. Claxton were married on the day they graduated from medical school at the University of Virginia and came to Asheville on their honeymoon.

They completed their residencies at Duke and began their family, but military service delayed their establishing private practices. It was after four years in Heidelberg that they began thinking of a place to make their home.

Drawn by medical friends to practice here and their memories of Western North Carolina, they chose Asheville.

But it was a different Asheville to which Dr. P. P. Claxton came in 1887.

That year he was called a threshold year for the little town whose population was 7,500.

Electric lights had been turned on, the first street railway serving the public square (now Park Square) had been built, and giant strides were about to be made toward paving the mud streets.

And in July of that year the voters decided — by a margin of two ballots — on a tax-supported public school system.

The beginning of public education in Asheville. It was a third district election on the question.

The first school board held its organizational meeting in City Hall that August and elected Claxton the first superintendent of public schools — a misnomer, for there were then no public schools in Asheville.

By the following January, however, the first one was opened in the old Asheville Male Academy on Academy Street, now Marshall Avenue where the William Randolph Elementary School stands. A public school for Negroes was located on Beaumont Street, and in December of 1887 a second white school was opened on Orange Street.

Philander Claxton — who would later be called to Washington as U. S. Commissioner of Education — also came to Asheville from Germany, where he had spent the previous two years studying the German system of public education.

He arrived here with a head full of new concepts — those of Pestalozzi, Froebel, founder of the kindergarten movement, Herbart — concepts that were to influence the educational trends of the world.

As a result, the schools of Asheville in their very first years were utilizing teaching methods not unlike those frequently referred to as "new" today.

He employed special teachers for music and drawing, used photos to teach reading, introduced a program strongly resembling today's "Career Education," in which students were taken to mills, railway freight stations, stores and various industrial plants for "first-hand knowledge of what the world of work is all about."

He instituted term grades, devised a system by which teachers were "promoted" along with their classes, defended corporal punishment and countered drop-outs with the introduction of manual training, physical education, and recommended establishment of a high school.

In later years his influence on education was to be felt to all of the United States. He became widely known as a "crusader for education" as he pressed for such radical ideas as free education for young people through 12 grades, consolidation of rural schools, better school buildings, greater aid to states, model farms, summer schools, part-time adult education, vocational training, county libraries, definite standards for college admission and graduation, and better equipped teachers.

In 1895 his name was placed on a tablet in the Office of Education in Washington, D. C. in recognition of "Distinguished Service in American Education."

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Great Grandad Was Dr. Claxton

The five children of Dr. C. Porter Claxton and his wife, Dr. Martha Ann Claxton, above, are enrolled in four of the Asheville City Schools, but none goes to the school named for their great-grandfather, the late Dr. Philander P. Claxton, Asheville's first school superintendent. The children, reading clockwise, are: Rebecca, eight, in her mother's lap, Newton School; James, nine, Aycock School; Claire Elizabeth, 12; Calvin, 13, Hill Street Middle School; Calvin, 12, Hill Street Middle School; and Douglas, six, Newton School.

Asheville Citizen-Times, July 20, 1975

When he resigned as commissioner, he became provost of the University of Alabama [1921-23] and then became superintendent of schools, Tulsa, Oklahoma [1923-29]. At the age of 68, he took his final professional position as the president of Austin Peay Normal School, Tennessee [1930-46]. He is credited with creating and promoting the six-three-three plan: six years in elementary school, three years in junior high school, and three years in senior high school, for preparation for college admission. "He consistently stressed the responsibility of the federal government in education." [14]

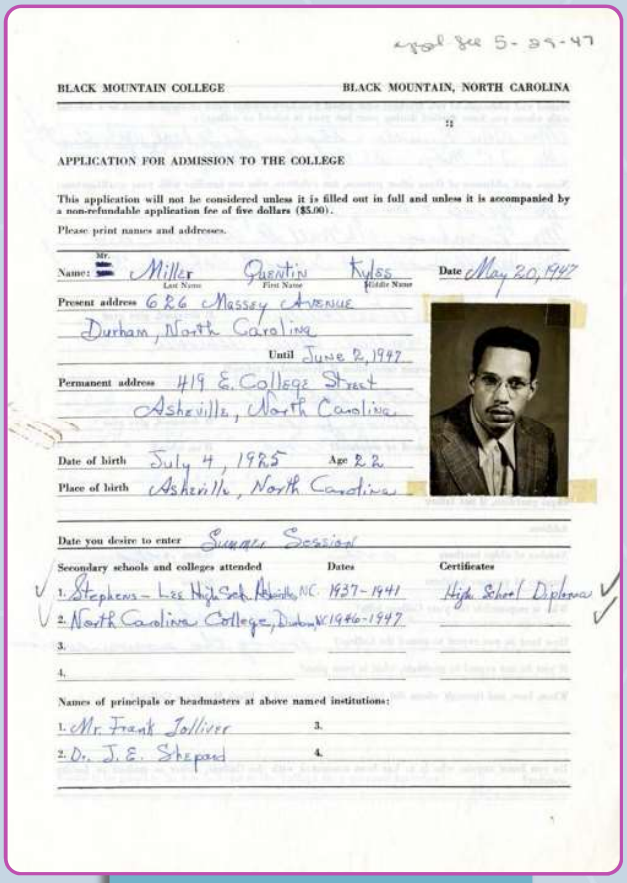
13 "Philander Priestley Claxton," Tennessee Encyclopedia. tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entries/philander-priestley-claxton

14 "Philander Priestley Claxton," NCPedia. ncpedia.org/biography/claxton-philander; Asheville Citizen-Times, January 17, 1988.

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

QUENTIN KYLES MILLER 1925-1992

"Quentin Kyles Miller was one of the rare Asheville natives to attend Black Mountain College, where he studied Music and German in the summer of 1947. He would go on to teach in Asheville and served as Principal of Newton, Claxton, and Randolph elementary schools. He was the first person of color to be appointed as Assistant Superintendent to Asheville Schools. He continued to teach and perform music as a band director and co-founder of the Reynolds-Miller Men's Chorale, in addition to singing and playing organ at St. Matthias Church. His grandfather, James Vester Miller, whose mother Louisa Miller was enslaved at the time of his birth, was a renowned craftsman, contractor, and teacher whose work can be seen in the Asheville Municipal Building, Hopkins Chapel, Mount Zion and Saint Matthias churches, among many others. He was a mentor and a community leader at the YMI Cultural Center and founded Miller & Sons Construction. Miller's son, physician Dr. L.O. Miller, was a prominent member of the AVL community and founder of Violet Hills Cemetery, a historic resting place for the Black community that is still maintained by the family today." [15]



BLACK MOUNTAIN COLLEGE — BLACK MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE COLLEGE

This application will not be considered unless it is filled out in full and unless it is accompanied by a non-refundable application fee of five dollars ($5.00).

Please print names and addresses.

Name: Mr. Miller (Last Name) Quentin (First Name) Kyles (Middle Name) Date May 20, 1947

Present address 626 Massey Avenue
Durham, North Carolina
Until June 2, 1947

Permanent address #19 E. College Street
Asheville, North Carolina

Date of birth July 4, 1925 Age 22

Place of birth Asheville, North Carolina

Date you desire to enter Summer Session

Secondary schools and colleges attended	Dates	Certificates
1. Stephens-Lee High School, Asheville, NC	1937-1941	High School Diploma
2. North Carolina College, Durham, NC	1946-1947	
3.		
4.		

Names of principals or headmasters at above named institutions:

1. Mr. Frank Jolliver 3.
2. Dr. J.E. Shepard 4.

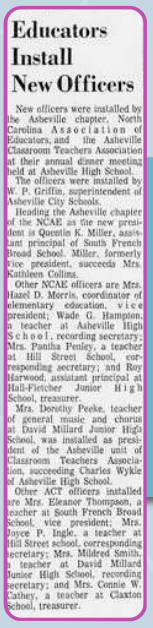
Application to BMC, 1947. Digital print from archival scan. Western Regional Archives, State Archives of NC.

Heritage of Black Highlanders Collection, D. Hiden Ramsey Library Special Collections, UNC Asheville

Preparing For Principals

Among early arrivals for the Early Childhood Education Principals Conference, set for Claxton School and the University of North Carolina at Asheville, are, (L-R): British consultants Peter Mansfield and Don Williams; Claxton Principal Quentin Miller; Miss Marjorie White, and conference chairman George Hodges of Morehead City. The week-long meeting begins Sunday at UNC-A, then moves to Claxton for weekday sessions. (Staff Photo by June Glenn Jr.)

Asheville Citizen-Times, July 21, 1972



Educators Install New Officers

New officers were installed by the Asheville chapter, North Carolina Association of Educators, and the Asheville Classroom Teachers Association at their annual dinner meeting held at Asheville High School.

The officers were installed by W. P. Griffin, superintendent of Asheville City Schools.

Heading the Asheville chapter of the NCAE as the new president is Quentin K. Miller, assistant principal of South French Broad School. Miller, formerly vice president, succeeds Mrs. Kathleen Collins.

Other NCAE officers are Mrs. Hazel D. Morris, coordinator of elementary education, vice president; Wade G. Hampton, a teacher at Asheville High School, recording secretary; Mrs. Pantha Presley, a teacher at Hill Street School, corresponding secretary; and Roy Harwood, assistant principal at Hall-Fletcher Junior High School, treasurer.

Mrs. Dorothy Peeke, teacher of general music and chorus at David Millard Junior High School, was installed as president of the Asheville unit of Classroom Teachers Association, succeeding Charles Wykle of Asheville High School.

Other ACT officers installed are Mrs. Eleanor Thompson, a teacher at South French Broad School, vice president; Mrs. Joyce P. Ingle, a teacher at Hill Street school, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Mildred Smith, a teacher at David Millard Junior High School, recording secretary; and Mrs. Connie W. Cathey, a teacher at Claxton School, treasurer.

Asheville Citizen-Times, May 22, 1971

Miller was the Band Master for Hill Street School and South French Broad Schools and also served as Principal of Hill Street and Assistant Principal of South French Broad High School. As an advocate for education, starting in 1971, Miller also served as president of the North Carolina Association of Educators.

From 1972-1983, Miller was principal of Claxton Elementary.

15 Black Mountain College, blackmountaincollege.org/quentin-kyles-miller/

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

FROM BEARS TO BEES

Claxton Elementary's mascot was Paxton the Claxton Bear and it was incorporated in many logos and branding. Once Claxton embraced the arts and humanities theme, the logo also incorporated music notes and/or a paintbrush. Royal blue and yellow were also colors often used in branding.

5th Grade Graduation, 2013

Claxton Elementary, 2016

Claxton Elementary, 1992

In 2016, the first annual Bee Day was hosted in the media center to celebrate honeybees and learn more about the observation bee hive with student-centered activities. By 2017, Claxton Elementary transitioned from 'Paxton the Bear' to 'Tricia the Bee', in honor of Claxton's first beekeeper and parent volunteer, Tricia Johnson. Claxton parents, Grace and Drew Findley from Subject Matter Studio, redesigned the school logo with a honeybee while continuing to honor the arts and academics in the design. Branding colors began to incorporate more black and yellow to represent honeybees.

Claxton Elementary, 2019

3rd Annual Bee Day,
Mountain Xpress, April 25, 2018

Tricia Johnson working with student,
Mountain Xpress, April 25, 2018

Claxton Elementary, 2021

3rd Annual Bee Day,
Mountain Xpress, April 25, 2018

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

MURAL RENOVATIONS 2011-2023

2011-2012

Claxton Elementary, 2011

3rd Floor Mural: Starting in 2011, Asheville mural artist, Ian Wilkinson, began restoring murals in the main building rotundas, which were originally painted in the late 80s. With the paint and plaster chipping, the murals became an opportunity for students to be a part of the process. This mural was created to empower students to be the leaders in the school. Through a TAPAS grant, Ian worked collaboratively with 5th graders that year to select historical figures that they felt represented a diverse American history. Students were also charged with using character traits to create their own panels. In small groups, students decided how to artistically represent words like 'courage', 'leader', and 'loyalty' and those panels were incorporated into the mural.

Claxton Elementary, 2024

2nd Floor Mural: In 2014, through the support of the NC Arts Council and Claxton PTO, funding was secured to restore the 2nd floor mural with Wilkinson. Claxton 2nd and 3rd graders discussed mural work, the local community as part of the global community, and decided how to send their messages of peace and community. Each student painted directly onto the wall and wrote a message onto a hand cutout, which was later stitched together to make a tree. This mural also featured a love of reading outside of the media center doors.

2014

Claxton Elementary, 2014

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

MURAL RENOVATIONS 2011-2023 (CONTINUED)

2014

Children work on individual collages that will become part of a group collage.

COURTESY OF GINGER HUEBNER

GOING BIG!

Ginger Huebner

WNC PARENT

I had the pleasure of being involved in a unique project at Claxton Elementary School through the TAPAS (Teaching Artists Programming in Asheville Schools) program during the 2014-15 school year. I worked with the entire second grade to create individual collages that attempted to capture and represent their family's culture and heritage. We drew inspiration from the works of talented artist Romaire Beardon. If you aren't already familiar with his work, please take a moment to look him up.

Once the students completed their self-portrait, they combined their work in groups of three or four to create larger collaborative collages. These collages resulted in being translations of their larger community, and have even more story and wonder. It was truly powerful to watch them spend the time representing themselves as individuals AND as a part of the larger community.

But the project didn't end here. If you do know Beardon's works, you know many of his collage works were monumental. So the other piece of this project was to take the student work and somehow enlarge it — and install it as a mural in the Claxton library. And we did just that. The entire back wall of the library is covered with these works — final times larger than real life. It is fantastic!

The most amazing part, however, for me is that it is a real, live mural of ALL children's work. The part that I played was to facilitate the making and guide the installation. The rest of the story belongs to the kids who created all the beautiful work.

Ginger Huebner is director of Hands + Wings School of Art and Design. Visit www.handsandwingsarts.com.

28 WNC PARENT | OCTOBER 2015

Media Center Mural: As part of the Claxton Racial Equity Teams' Family Voices night, in 2014, the media center wanted to create more inclusive representation in its space. This project allowed students that attended Family Voices night to represent themselves with creative self-portraits. Students worked with artist, Ginger Huebner, to create their portraits through collage, which were later stitched together to create the colorful panels in the media center. The student work was completed both at Claxton and in an area community center.

Claxton Elementary, 2015

Claxton Elementary, 2018

1st Floor Mural: In the Spring of 2022, through the support of Claxton and Claxton PTO funding, the final rotunda mural allowed for kindergarten and 1st grade students to be involved. School staff shared their ideas for the new mural, which included centering our observation bee hive, but also honoring a bit of the original mural, which featured Asheville landmarks such as the Grove Park Inn. Each student created pollinators on pieces of mural paper to add to the final mural as well as directly painted onto the wall. Students were able to watch this process unfold from Spring 2022 until the final product was completed in September 2022.

2022

Claxton Elementary, 2022

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

RACIAL EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Family Workshop, Claxton Elementary, 2018

In its first year, the Racial Equity Team developed the 'Family Voices' nights to provide a space for families of color to share their experience at Claxton with staff. This space was intentionally created to listen and not to "talk at" families. The team also developed lessons and resources to help engage students in age appropriate and relevant topics around race, identity, and belonging.

Claxton Elementary, 2018

By 2023, after 10 years of work, the Claxton Social Justice League, celebrated its impact on school culture, core values, restorative practices while acknowledging that many disparities continue to exist.

Claxton Elementary, 2017

Asheville City Schools, 2022

In 2013, Claxton Elementary was awarded a three year racial equity grant from the Asheville City Schools Foundation to develop Claxton Elementary's Racial Equity Team and provide professional development for its staff. With the help and support of an outside consultant, the team developed group norms and a common language to talk about race and racism in education. Though it was challenging, the Racial Equity Team engaged the entire staff and named racial disparities that existed at Claxton.

Asheville City Schools, 2019

By 2017, the team was funded by Claxton Elementary and the Claxton PTO to continue to provide resources, workshops, and professional development. In order to broaden its work to include the intersectionality of many identities, including LGBTQ+ and immigrant rights within racial justice, the Claxton Racial Equity Team became the Claxton Social Justice League and social justice became one of Claxton's core values.

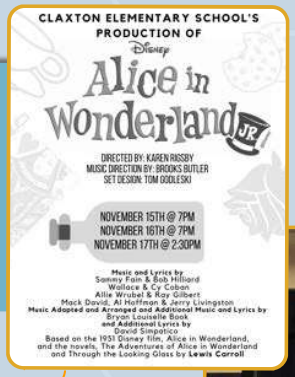
CLAXTON PARENT/CAREGIVER RACIAL EQUITY WORKSHOPS
FREE!
1 UNDERSTANDING PRIVILEGE
2 ASHEVILLE'S HIDDEN RACIAL HISTORY
3 UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING MICROAGGRESSIONS
4 TALKING WITH YOUR KIDS ABOUT RACE
CHILDCARE PROVIDED TO CLX FAMILIES
WORKSHOPS ARE FROM 6PM-8PM

Claxton Elementary, 2018

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

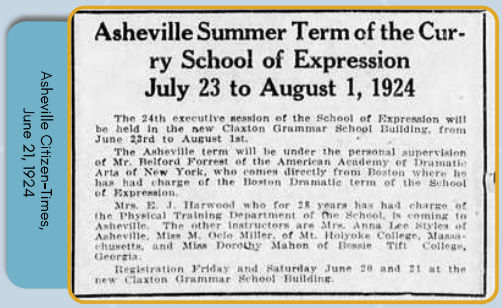
DRAMA AT CLX

Early in Claxton's history, drama, music, and art were a core part of the school's curriculum. Claxton Elementary became the "arts and humanities" magnet school in 1991, but it is clear from its history that the arts were vital before its magnet theme. Though Claxton students had various drama opportunities, drama as a specialist class for every Claxton K–5 student began in 2015.


CLAXTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S
PRODUCTION OF
Disney
Alice in Wonderland JR.
DIRECTED BY: KAREN RISSBY
MUSIC DIRECTION BY: BROOKS BUTLER
SET DESIGN: TOM GODLESKI
NOVEMBER 15TH @ 7PM
NOVEMBER 16TH @ 7PM
NOVEMBER 17TH @ 2:30PM
Music and Lyrics by
Sammy Fain & Bob Hilliard
Wallace & Cy Coban
Allie Wrubel & Ray Gilbert
Mack David, Al Hoffman & Jerry Livingston
Music Adapted and Arranged and Additional Music and Lyrics by
Bryan Louiselle Book
and Additional Lyrics by
David Simpatico
Based on the 1951 Disney film, Alice in Wonderland,
and the novels, The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland
and Through the Looking Glass by Lewis Carroll

Claxton Elementary, 2019

Alice in Wonderland, 2019



Asheville Summer Term of the Curry School of Expression July 23 to August 1, 1924

The 24th executive session of the School of Expression will be held in the new Claxton Grammar School Building, from June 23rd to August 1st.

The Asheville term will be under the personal supervision of Mr. Belford Forrest of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts of New York, who comes directly from Boston where he has had charge of the Boston Dramatic term of the School of Expression.

Mrs. E. J. Harwood who for 28 years has had charge of the Physical Training Department of the School, is coming to Asheville. The other instructors are Mrs. Anna Lee Styles of Asheville, Miss M. Ocie Miller, of Mt. Holyoke College, Massachusetts, and Miss Dorothy Mahon of Bessie Tift College, Georgia.

Registration Friday and Saturday June 20 and 21 at the new Claxton Grammar School Building.

Asheville Citizen-Times, June 21, 1924

Enrichment program stresses the arts

By LeeAnn Donnelly
STAFF WRITER

When the teacher tells the group of 30 leotard- or sweatsuit-clad students to take five minutes to think up a short dance routine, heads start bobbing, mouths start talking, arms flail and eyes light up.

Five little girls stand up, arms linked.

"Start with the right leg," one of them commands. "No! Left leg!," another protests with a slender leg stretched out ready to do a high kick. A compromise ensues and the five stand one-legged, looking a lot like storks.

This is typical of what goes on two afternoons a week in the high-ceilinged dance room of Claxton Elementary. The dance class is only part of the school's innovative after-school enrichment program started in conjunction with the magnet school program.

"The trend across our state, and in all education, is moving to the magnet school themes to make it more attractive for the choice – freedom of choice for schools," said Jean Brown, the school's physical education teacher and after-school dance instructor.

"This is sort of like the icing on the cake. We still stress, even more than ever, academics first. Beyond that, all of these classes are fringe benefits for the children at no cost," she said.

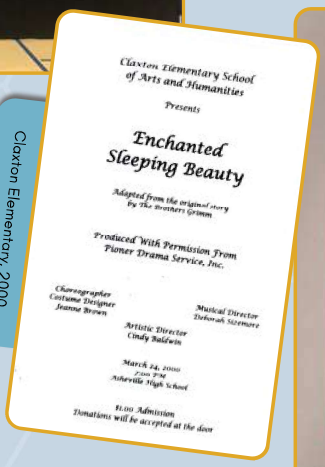
While there are about 33 students taking dance, with about 12 more expected to join the troupe, classes in chorus, quilting, chess, pottery, creative dramatics, cello and violin are going on in spots all over the building.

"Most of the prog... where between a 15- and... ing capacity. So it's a ... served basis," said Brown. Since there is such a... acting and dancing cl...

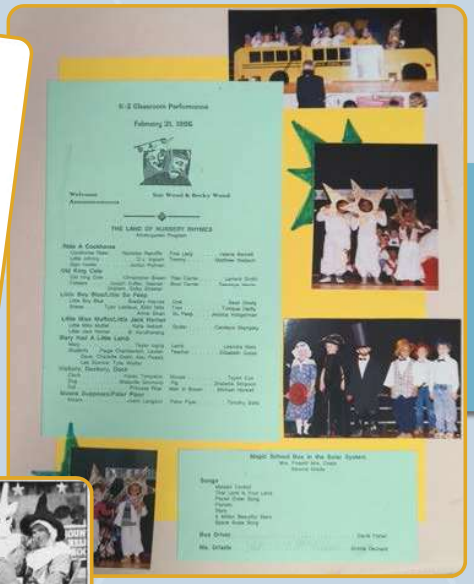
Hat dancers gear up for a smooth-stepping performance as part of Cl... Elementary's after-school enrichment program. They are, left to right, ... Stan Chamberlain, Jamil Smith, Larry Williams, Brandon Powell and A...

See C...

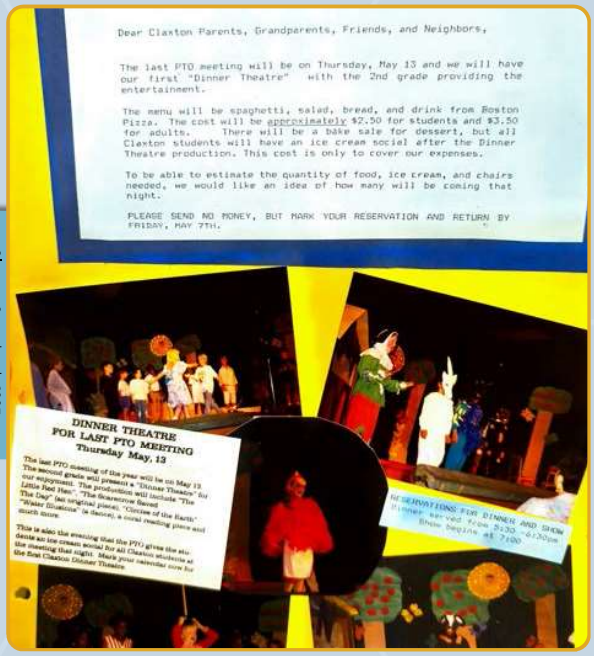
Asheville Citizen-Times, January 27, 1993



Claxton Elementary, 2000



Claxton Scrapbook, 1995


Dear Claxton Parents, Grandparents, Friends, and Neighbors,
The last PTO meeting will be on Thursday, May 13 and we will have our first "Dinner Theatre" with the 2nd grade providing the entertainment.
The menu will be spaghetti, salad, bread, and drink from Boston Pizza. The cost will be approximately $2.50 for students and $3.50 for adults. There will be a bake sale for dessert, but all Claxton students will have an ice cream social after the Dinner Theatre production. This cost is only to cover our expenses.
To be able to estimate the quantity of food, ice cream, and chairs needed, we would like an idea of how many will be coming that night.
PLEASE SEND NO MONEY, BUT MARK YOUR RESERVATION AND RETURN BY FRIDAY, MAY 7TH.
DINNER THEATRE
FOR LAST PTO MEETING
Thursday May, 13

Claxton Scrapbook, 1993

Claxton play goes to ACT stage
Susan Reinhardt
Members of the second grade at Claxton Elementary School of Arts and Humanities perform an original play, "Scarecrows Save the Day," before a preview audience at the Asheville Community Theatre. From rear left are Rama Johnson, Frontier Hill, Elizabeth McKenna and Sarah Brown. In front is Matthew Lund.
Pegry Sch...

Asheville Citizen-Times, June 9, 1993

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY
EST. 1924
ASHEVILLE, NC

UNC ASHEVILLE
CENTER FOR DIVERSITY EDUCATION

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

MUSIC & ART AT CLX

Music and art have been central to Claxton's curriculum for many years through the support of the music and art teachers over the years, Claxton students have had many opportunities to explore, experience, and create music and art.

tudents' garden knowledge grows

Asheville Citizen-Times, May 12, 2015

STUDENTS WORK WITH ART MUSEUM

Claxton Elementary School and the Asheville Art Museum will be involved in a new and innovative grant program beginning in January.

Directed by grant writer and art museum director Diane Duffilio, fourth and fifth grade students and teachers at Claxton will discover new ways of learning language arts concepts through an exploration of visual arts.

Claxton students will not only visit the Asheville Art Museum to view original paintings and sculptures, but they will then expand their studies in both the language and visual arts through creative writing activities, cooperative study groups, creating "word pictures," etc. Claxton students will not only strengthen their writing and thinking skills through this project, but they will also learn how to better express themselves through the arts.

AFTERSCHOOL AT CLAXTON

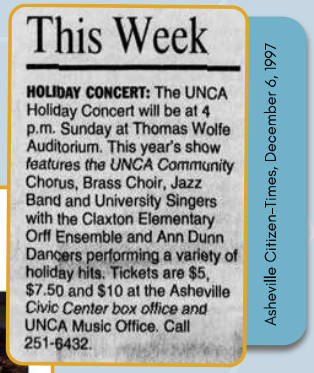
The afterschool arts program for the spring semester at Claxton Elementary School includes courses such as:

Ethnic Cooking (incorporating multicultural children's literature), Folk Dancing from Around the World, Creative Dance, Orff Ensemble (in preparation for a performance with the Asheville Symphony in April), a radio program, drama, pottery, folk art, martial arts and others for a total of 17 courses.

Courses are available to all Claxton students.

These courses will be taught by both Claxton teachers and community artists.

Asheville Citizen-Times, May 12, 2015



This Week

HOLIDAY CONCERT: The UNCA Holiday Concert will be at 4 p.m. Sunday at Thomas Wolfe Auditorium. This year's show features the UNCA Community Chorus, Brass Choir, Jazz Band and University Singers with the Claxton Elementary Orff Ensemble and Ann Dunn Dancers performing a variety of holiday hits. Tickets are $5, $7.50 and $10 at the Asheville Civic Center box office and UNCA Music Office. Call 251-6432.

Asheville Citizen-Times, December 6, 1997

"Creativity Celebration"

Claxton Scrapbook, 1995

What do you love about art?

Compiled by Barbara Blake
bblake@citizen-times.com

A love of the arts can start at an early age, whether it involves drawing, singing, acting, writing, dancing or other forms of self-expression. We asked students at Claxton Elementary School in Asheville, which has the "arts and humanities" magnet theme, which art forms they love the most, and why.

Rob McCormac, 9, fourth grade

"My dad plays guitar and played with professional people, and now I play guitar. I've come along pretty well in two and a half years. The hardest part for me was to keep practicing, but I know if I didn't practice I would never be as good as my dad. I'm committed to practicing to 30 minutes every day. I think the music will be kind of bluesy, just like my dad. I also like to read, and I've done all the plays here (at Claxton)."

Lilian Eselgroth, 9, fourth grade

"I love to draw with pencils and pastels. My parents are artists, and I picked it up from them. I love that I can express myself, and it doesn't have to be a particular way. I can do whatever I feel like. I've had some of my art in art shows. I draw several hours a day. I want to be some kind of artist when I grow up, and maybe acting, too."

Kelly Medlock, 9, fourth grade

"I draw and make cartoons up. Sometimes I'll be drawing and I don't know what I'm going to draw, and I end up with something cool. I play piano, and I'm going to start playing drums. Cartooning is my favorite thing. For my career, I think I might be a cartoonist. Or I might be a stockbroker, and do cartoons on the weekends. I'm also very musically inclined. But when I'm drawing, like if I'm really bored, drawing just makes me happy."

Miren Chenevert, 9, fourth grade

"I love singing. My grandma always included me in singing in her Christmas pageant. I tried out for the kid symphony this year and got it. I also like acting in school productions. I feel good when I sing. It's a good way to express myself. I'm also taking piano lessons. When I grow up, I'd like to be a classical singer in the symphony. I want to go to Louisiana State University, they've got a great music program."

Nian Avery, 8, third grade

"My dad used to play drums, and that inspired me to play drums. I also play guitar and keyboard. I like drumming because of the beats and how loud it can get sometimes. I really want to be a wrestler, but if that doesn't work out I'd like to play drums for a living. Drumming makes me feel happy."

RaVon Payton, 10, fifth grade

"I love to draw. When I first came to this school in third grade, I drew a peacock, and I started thinking I should draw more animal pictures. And I realized that when I'm drawing, there's no stress. I'm calm when I draw. Mostly I draw animals — elephants are my favorite. I want to be an artist as a career, drawing animals or doing car art. Some of my art stuff has been in contests, like the Mountain State Fair. I draw three times a day. I just love to draw."

Jeanette Duncan, 8, third grade

"Coloring is my favorite. I make up the picture and then color it in. I use oil pastels. My art teacher gave me samples, and I got the hang of it and just did it. During (art) class (at Claxton), we have specialists, and we do different things. I feel happy when I draw. I want to keep learning different art forms. I like when other people like my art. When I grow up, I want to give it to sick people."

Emma Kussrow, 10, fifth grade

"I like singing and acting. I started acting in third grade when the plays (at Claxton) got interesting. My mom was my idol and I thought (singing) was so cool, so I tried out and I had a gift. She sings in the choir at church, and she sings with my grandpa. I sort of like acting more. This year we're doing 'Annie.' I'd like to be Annie, but everybody wants to be her, so I'll be happy if I can just be one of the orphans. Singing just makes me feel really joyous, because I can express my feelings. And I think I might try acting professional theater and see how far I can go."

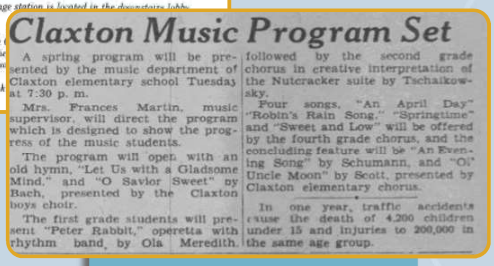
R'Reyale Baird, 7, second grade

"I've been singing for almost two years, in my church choir. I love to sing. Sometimes I make up my own songs. I also like to act, and I like art class. I like using paint. Probably painting plants is my favorite thing. Or just painting anything I can imagine. I'll probably keep acting and singing, but singing is the most peaceful thing. I like making up songs."

Emelia Gregg, 7, second grade

"I love acting. My brothers did it (at Southern Appalachian Repertory Theater in Mars Hill), and my mom does acting. I like getting parts. It's fun doing stuff like lines, but it is hard to learn the lines. The fun part is that sometimes you get to do some singing. I like making up songs. I've played in 'Cinderella' and the 'Memory Collection' (at SART). I want to continue acting and singing when I grow up. One reason I picked this school is because of the arts here."

Asheville Citizen-Times, October 1, 2007



Claxton Music Program Set

A spring program will be presented by the music department of Claxton elementary school Tuesday at 7:30 p. m.

Mrs. Frances Martin, music supervisor, will direct the program which is designed to show the progress of the music students.

The program will open with an old hymn, "Let Us with a Gladsome Mind," and "O Savior Sweet" by Bach, presented by the Claxton boys choir.

The first grade students will present "Peter Rabbit," operetta with rhythm band, by Ola Meredith, followed by the second grade chorus in creative interpretation of the Nutcracker suite by Tschaikowsky.

Four songs, "An April Day" "Robin's Rain Song," "Springtime" and "Sweet and Low" will be offered by the fourth grade chorus, and the concluding feature will be "An Evening Song" by Schumann, and "Oi' Uncle Moon" by Scott, presented by Claxton elementary chorus.

In one year, traffic accidents cause the death of 4,200 children under 15 and injuries to 200,000 in the same age group.

Asheville Citizen-Times, April 16, 1948

The Asheville Times, March 20, 1924

Claxton Elementary, 4th Grade TAPAS Residency, 2016

SCHOOL SINGING CONTEST WAS DEMONSTRATION OF ATTAINMENT

Issue Permit for Broadway Building

The Asheville Times, March 20, 1924

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

TRADITIONS & CELEBRATIONS

→ Why do schools have traditions?

→ What Claxton traditions or celebrations do you remember?

Fun Run, Claxton Elementary, 2018

TALENT SHOW AT CLAXTON JUNE 2

The second annual Claxton school-wide talent show will be held on Wednesday, June 2 at 1 p.m. in the school gym. Both student and staff talents will be showcased at this performance.

Asheville Citizen-Times, 1993

Variety Show, Claxton Elementary, 2019

Slime Reward, Claxton Elementary, 2022

CLAXTON SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL PRESENT SHOW

Claxton school students will present a variety show Monday at 8 p. m. at the school. The public is invited to attend.

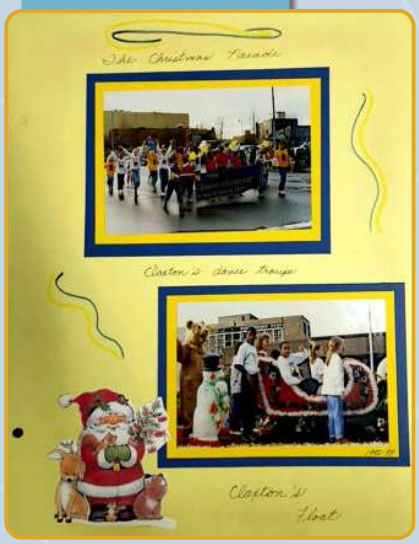
The program will include a talk by Betty Felmet, a group of songs by the second and third grades, a recitation by Modena Penland, a Spanish dance by Catherine Nettles, a vocal solo by Seth Perkinson, Jr., recitations by Mrs. Charles Druitt's expression class, a group of songs by the Claxton glee club under the direction of Mrs. Kathryn Felder, a musical skit by Miss Marie Bollman's fifth grade, a cowboy dance by Betty Lou Grimes and a specialty number by Bobby Lewis.

Miss Williams' third grade will present a marionette show, "Little Red Riding Hood."

The religious society of Friends was established in the U. S. in 1661.

Asheville Citizen-Times, 1940

Claxton Scrapbook, 1993



Fall Carnival, Claxton Elementary, 2021

Drum building, Claxton Elementary, 2021

5th grade graduation, Claxton Elementary, 2019

Field Day, Claxton Elementary, 2013

SAFETY PATROL
Our school safety patrols are back on duty keeping the halls safe for all our students. Please encourage your child to listen to the directions of the safety patrols.

Claxton Scrapbook, 1992

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

ACADEMIC LEARNING AT CLX

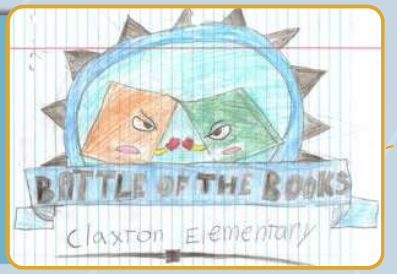
Claxton scrapbook, 1992

1997 Claxton Mission Statement:
The Claxton School of Arts and Humanities believes that all children are creative and capable of learning. We are committed to providing a strong educational base, in a richly diversified environment, that will develop individual interests and talents in the arts and humanities.

2018 Claxton Mission Statement:
Our mission at Claxton Elementary School of Arts and Humanities is to cultivate a learning community where student leaders thrive and feel successful through rigorous academics supported by social and emotional learning, social justice and the arts.

Claxton Elementary Core Values
Leadership
Everyone can be a leader.
Social Justice
Every child is valued and empowered through socially just learning communities.
Social Emotional
Emotional well-being and healthy relationships are foundational for students to thrive in learning and in life
Multi-Tiered Support Systems
Every child can achieve grade level benchmarks.
Arts and Humanities
The arts are fundamental to teaching and learning.

Claxton Elementary, 2018



Claxton Elementary, 2016

Claxton Elementary, 2017

Claxton Elementary, 2014

Claxton Elementary, 2004

Claxton Scrapbook, 1995

CLAXTON SELECTED AS "1995 ENTREPRENEURIAL SCHOOL"

Out of nearly 200 applicants from across the state, Claxton School of Arts & Humanities has been selected as one of 15 finalists to be considered for a 1995 Governor's N.C. Entrepreneurial Award. Schools that have evidenced success in the overall improvement of teaching and learning through the implementation of innovative practices have been observed and evaluated by a teacher advisory committee selected by the governor of N.C. This team came to the Claxton campus on April 7, to observe and evaluate us for this award. They not only observed our operation but had numerous meetings with our faculty, staff, parents, business partners, and local artists who have been affiliated with our school.

For the past three years, Claxton School has focused its efforts on insuring that every student at Claxton experience continual success in core subject areas made possible in some of the following ways:

1 – by implementing its "Arts & Humanities" magnet theme into the total curriculum through regular classroom activities and daily after school classes.
2 – through the strengthening of the school's involvement with its parents and business partnerships.
3 – by nurturing the school's positive environment.
4 – by continuing to interact in a myriad of ways with area artists.

A description of Claxton School will be published in a statewide Entrepreneurial Schools Awards publication and the school will be recognized for its efforts and successes at an awards banquet to be held in Raleigh in the Fall of 1995.

Claxton Elementary, 2020

Claxton Elementary, 2014

Claxton Elementary, 2003

Mountain
DIGEST

State honors local school

Claxton Elementary School is one of 11 schools and two school systems in the state to be honored Friday by Gov. Jim Hunt for innovative ideas to improve education.

The awards banquet will be at 6 p.m. Friday in the North Raleigh Hilton. A video highlighting each school's accomplishments will be shown.

Hunt and his Teacher Advisory Committee started the awards last year to honor schools for trying new ideas to improve learning. The winners were chosen from among 163 entries. Committee members visited each school and talked with parents, teachers and students.

Claxton won for forming an alliance with all major local arts organizations and education centers to help students develop interests, skills and an appreciation for the arts. The awards announcement said the school has seen enrollment, attendance and tests scores increase.

The school is one of the city's "magnet" schools, which concentrate on themes. Claxton's theme is arts and humanities.

Asheville Citizen-Times, 1995

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY EST. 1924 ASHEVILLE, NC

UNC ASHEVILLE CENTER FOR DIVERSITY EDUCATION

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

STEPHENS-LEE HIGH SCHOOL

Built in 1922 on the former site of Catholic Hill School, which burned down in 1917, Stephens-Lee was the only public high school for Black students in Buncombe County. "When one of the only other high schools for Black students in the region burned down, students made a daily four and a half hour trip in an unheated bus from Yancey County to attend the school. With the only remaining Black high school in the area located in Hendersonville, Stephens-Lee attracted students from throughout western North Carolina." [16]

The school was named after Dr. Edward Stephens, principal of Catholic Hill School and an organizer of the YMI, and Mrs. Hester Ford Lee, one of Catholic Hill School's teachers. The school was often known as "The Castle on the Hill" and designed by the same architect as Claxton Elementary, Ronald Greene.

Stephens-Lee High School, 1952
Buncombe County Special Collections, Pack Memorial Library

Stephens-Lee Tonette Band, Homecoming Parade, 1955
D. Hiden Ramsey Library Special Collections, UNC Asheville

The school was known for its excellent faculty, many with advanced degrees.[17] In the early 1960s, student organizers formed the Asheville Student Committee on Racial Equality (ASCORE). These high school students utilized nonviolent strategies for desegregation in Buncombe County and influenced the Asheville City Schools Board of Education on the new construction of South French Broad High.

By 1965, Stephens-Lee closed and students were transferred to South French Broad High. After purchasing the property for $10 from Asheville City Schools, the City of Asheville, with the exception of the gym, razed the Stephens-Lee building in 1975. "The gym wing was saved due to the work of Stephens-Lee alumni and Asheville Parks & Recreation." [16] The gym remains at 30 George Washington Carver Street as the Stephens-Lee Recreation Center, which also houses the Stephens-Lee Alumni Center.

Stephens-Lee High School Marching Band
Buncombe County Special Collections, Pack Memorial Library

- Dedicated in 1922
- Opened March 2023
- First graduating class, 1924
- Band organized, 1938
- Gym added, 1940
- 12th grade added, 1943
- ASCORE student group formed, 1959
- Last class graduated and students moved to South French Broad, 1965
- Building demolished except for gym, 1975
- The Stephens-Lee Alumni Association was formed, 1992

16 *The City of Asheville, ashevillenc.gov/news/park-views-stephens-lee-community-center/*

17 *Buncombe County Special Collections, specialcollections.buncombecounty.org/2018/02/20/the-faculty-of-stephens-lee-high-school-a-tribute/*

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1924 2024

ORAL HISTORIES

Name: Tom Godleski
Years at Claxton: 1997–2022
Role: Instructional assistant
Claxton memory: Getting to watch the construction of the K–1 wing take place and moving into the new classrooms when they were complete.

Interviewed by: Dr. Kimberly Nava Eggett
February 15, 2024
Buncombe County Special Collections

Asheville City Schools, 2019

ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES • CITIZEN-TIMES.COM ARTS SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2014 D3

Making songs out of family stories

Tom Godleski mines his past for Buncombe Turnpike tunes

By Carol Rifkin
Citizen-Times correspondent

Tom Godleski can "spin a yarn" and turn it into a song too. Born and raised in Asheville's Emma community, Godleski takes his family memories and turns them into mountain story songs.

Most people know him from his work with the band Buncombe Turnpike — and many kids know him as a teaching assistant at Claxton Elementary School, where he's worked for more than 21 years.

Lately he's earning fame as a playwright, but almost all his creative work revolves around family and the place where he grew up.

"I still live where I grew up," Godleski said. "My grandfather — J. Weldon Harris was his name — bought the property in 1944. He bought 30 acres for $1,500."

The purchase was controversial in the family at the time because Weldon may have

Junaluska Assembly and later at the Asheville Civic Center. Watson's performance made a huge impression on him, especially the song "Omie Wise."

"My granddaddy sang to my mom and my aunt 'Little Omie Wise,' which is a North Carolina story," Godleski said. "It's the precursor to 'Knoxville Girl' and 'Banks of the Ohio.' Granddaddy was a Church of God preacher; I remember learning 'I am a Pilgrim' and Mama told me it was one of his favorite songs."

Stories become a play

Harris passed away when Godleski was 10 but left him with a lifetime of memories, daily skills and stories that are the basis of much of Godleski's songwriting and storytelling.

"My mom and my aunt inherited the property; it's split up between brothers and cousins and we mostly all live there," said Godleski, who married his high school sweetheart. Terri and Tom Godleski

The Godleski family at home in Emma, from left, Taylor, Tom, Terri and Bryan. SPECIAL TO THE CITIZEN-TIMES

Tom Godleski, right, at Echo Mountain Studio working on a new Buncombe Turnpike album with, from left, Evan Swink, John Duncan, Joe Trimbach and Seth Rhineheart. SPECIAL TO THE CITIZEN-TIMES

LEARN MORE

For more about Tom Godleski, Buncombe Turnpike and "Fresh Preserves," visit

dancing, where I learned about the different styles of banjo playing."

Buncombe Turnpike

Some members have changed over the years but the current lineup has stayed solid for more than five years, with Godleski on bass, Evan Swink on guitar, John Duncan on fiddle, Seth Rhinehart on banjo and, added last year, Joe Trimbach on mandolin. It's all about the song, singing and writing original material.

"Some of the songs are progressive but most of them sound very traditional," Godleski said. "When you take a song to the band, and people like it and it takes off, it's a magical thing."

Many of his grandfather's stories have become songs, including "Ernest Payne" the bootlegger and, more recently, a story called "The Bible or the Bottle," about a man strug-

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1924 2024

ORAL HISTORIES

Name: Phillip Crouch
Years at Claxton: 1946–1950
Role: Student
Claxton memory: Playing marbles under trees that were where the current front parking lot is today.

St. Paul's Methodist Church, 2022

Interviewed by: Dr. Kimberly Nava Eggett
February 20, 2024
Buncombe County Special Collections

The Asheville Times, July 29, 1947

Claxton Nine Wins Softball Playoff Game

The Claxton softball team, winners of the "National" league championship in the City Recreation department summer program, went one up in their Little World Series with Carson at Memorial Stadium yesterday morning when they defeated the "American" league winners by the one-sided count of 22 to 3.

The two teams will resume the three-game playoff series tomorrow morning at 9:30 o'clock and if a third game is necessary it will be played on Friday morning.

This morning at 9:30 o'clock at McCormick field, the Claxton softballers, who also annexed the "National" baseball championship, will battle the Junior Optimists "American" loop champs, in the first of a championship series. Other baseball contests, also a best two of three affair, are slated Thursday and Saturday mornings.

In yesterday's game, Calloway pitched the Claxton team to the one-sided victory. He gave up only eight scattered hits. His mates gave him excellent support afield.

The Asheville Times, April 16, 1948

Claxton Music Program Set

A spring program will be presented by the music department of Claxton elementary school Tuesday at 7:30 p. m.

Mrs. Frances Martin, music supervisor, will direct the program which is designed to show the progress of the music students.

The program will open with an old hymn, "Let Us with a Gladsome Mind," and "O Savior Sweet" by Bach, presented by the Claxton boys choir.

The first grade students will present "Peter Rabbit," operetta with rhythm band, by Ola Meredith, followed by the second grade chorus in creative interpretation of the Nutcracker suite by Tschaikowsky.

Four songs, "An April Day" "Robin's Rain Song," "Springtime" and "Sweet and Low" will be offered by the fourth grade chorus, and the concluding feature will be "An Evening Song" by Schumann, and "Oh Uncle Moon" by Scott, presented by Claxton elementary chorus.

In one year, traffic accidents cause the death of 4,200 children under 15 and injuries to 200,000 in the same age group.

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1924 2024

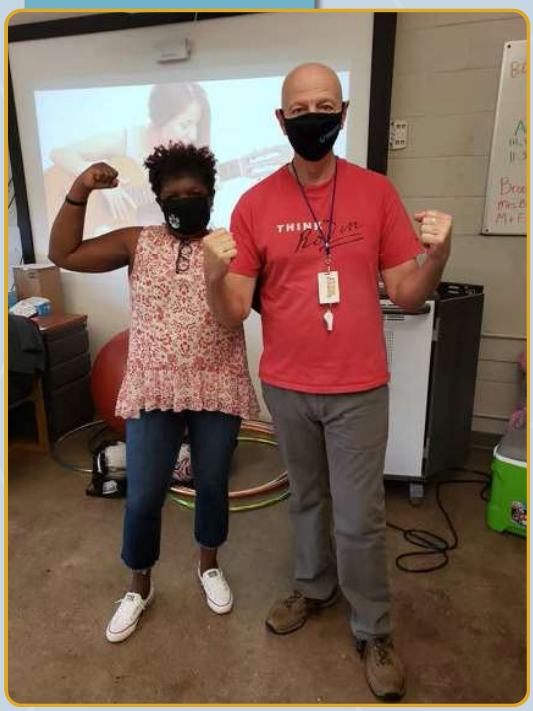
ORAL HISTORIES

Name: James Cassara
Years at Claxton: 1987–2016; 2017–current
Role: Art teacher and substitute teacher
Claxton memory: Lots of quiet memories, but often reminded how much of his life is associated with 241 Merrimon Avenue.

Claxton Elementary, 2015

Interviewed by: Dee Dee Allan
February 7, 2024
Buncombe County Special Collections

Claxton Elementary, 2021



Claxton Elementary, 1998

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1924 2024

ORAL HISTORIES

Name: Elizabeth Allan McCormick
Years at Claxton: 1994–1999
Role: Student
Claxton memory: Loved getting to play in the ORFF ensemble facilitated by music teacher, Debra Sizemore, and it led to playing flute in middle school, high school, and college.

Photo on loan from Dee Dee Allan, 1995

Interviewed by: Dee Dee Allan
February 2, 2024
Buncombe County Special Collections

EDUCATION NOTES

Seven Asheville City Schools' students recently won $100 U.S. Savings Bonds donated by Ingles South Forest as part of their sponsorship of the ACE Card Program.

All students who had earned a gold or silver ACE Card awarded by the Asheville City Schools Foundation for academic achievement during the 1998-1999 school year were eligible to win.

In a random drawing the following students were chosen:

Daniel Niwinski - Isaac Dickson Elementary School
Lauren Hall - Asheville High School
Robert McDaniel - Accelerated Learning Center
Sarah Godfrey - Randolph Elementary School
Sarah Wiest - Asheville Middle School
Jacuan Benton - Hall Fletcher Elementary School
Elizabeth Allan - Claxton Elementary School

Allan

The ACE Card Program is a student incentive program administered by the Asheville City Schools Foundation and sponsored by Ingles South Forest.

Asheville Citizen Times, September 25, 1999

Photo on loan from Dee Dee Allan Cinderella Musical, 1996

1924

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

2024

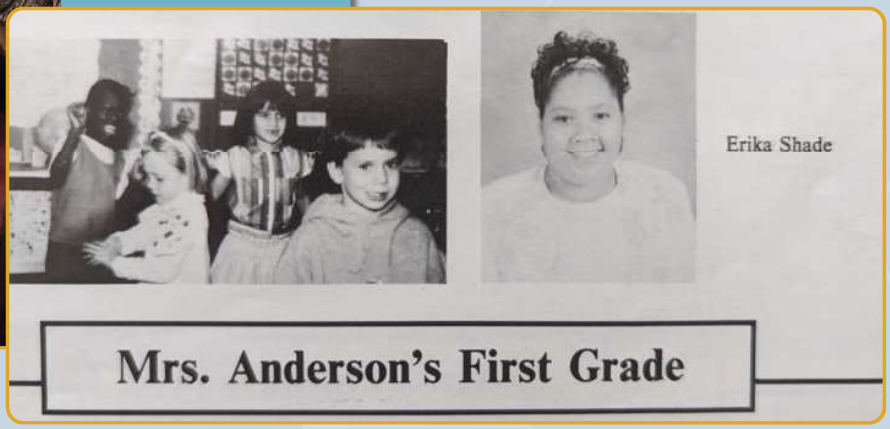
ORAL HISTORIES

Name: Erika Goode
Years at Claxton: 1990–2021
Role: Instructional Assistant, Media Center Assistant, and Bus Driver
Claxton memory: Remembers the 5th grade grade graduation during the pandemic and how much the kids and staff enjoyed being able to have a celebration that year.

Interviewed by: Dee Dee Allan
March 8, 2024
Buncombe County Special Collections

Claxton Elementary, 2018

Claxton yearbook, 1994



CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1924 2024

ORAL HISTORIES

Name: Jeanette Bollick Byrd
Years at Claxton: 1948–1952
Role: Student
Claxton memory: Getting to be a library volunteer later in life to support students.

Photograph on loan from Jeanette Byrd, 3rd Grade

Interviewed by: Dr. Kimberly Nava Eggett
February 21, 2024
Buncombe County Special Collections

Report card on loan from Jeanette Byrd

ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
ASHEVILLE, N. C.
J. W. BYERS, SUPERINTENDENT

THE UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT

Pupil's Name Jeannette Bolick
School Claxton Year 1951-2 Grade 4th
Grade Assigned for Next Year Fifth
Yearly Comment: Jeannette has done good work and has been most co-operative.
Principal Ms. McConnell Teacher V. M. Gregg

To the Parents or Guardians:

This report will be sent to you three times during the school year, at the end of the first twelve weeks, twenty-four weeks, and at the end of the school year. The purpose of this report is to tell you about your child, his growth and progress in school.

We believe the school and the home must work together for the good of the child. We urge you to visit the school and give your best support. We ask that you plan for one or more conferences with your child's teacher during the year.

Date Nov. 29, 1951

My dear Mr. & Mrs. Bolick:

Jeannette is progressing nicely. She is most co-operative and tries to help at all times.

Sincerely,
V. M. Gregg

Absent 0 days Tardy 0 times
Comment by parents:
Parent Mrs. E. A. Bolick

		12 Wks.	24 Wks.	36 Wks.
	CITIZENSHIP	✓	✓	✓
ENGLISH FIELD	READING	✓	✓	✓
	LANGUAGE	✓	✓	✓
	SPELLING	✓	✓	✓
	WRITING	✓	✓	✓
SOCIAL STUDIES	GEOGRAPHY	✓	✓	✓
	HISTORY			
	SOCIAL STUDIES			
ARITH. SCIENCE FIELD	HEALTH & PHYSICAL CULTURE			
	SCIENCE			
	ARITHMETIC	✓	✓	✓
ART FIELD	MUSIC	✓	✓	✓
	ART			
ATTEN-DANCE	TARDY	0	0	0
	ABSENT	0	13	5

Subject matter is one means of growth and development.
A check (✓) means satisfactory work is being done. A cross (x) means improvement is desired.

Photograph on loan from Jeanette Byrd, 6th Grade

1924

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

2024

ORAL HISTORIES

Name: Pamela Cauble
Years at Claxton: 1991–2010
Role: Spanish teacher
Claxton memory: The amazing adventure of the boiler exploding in 1993 and helping students evacuate safely.

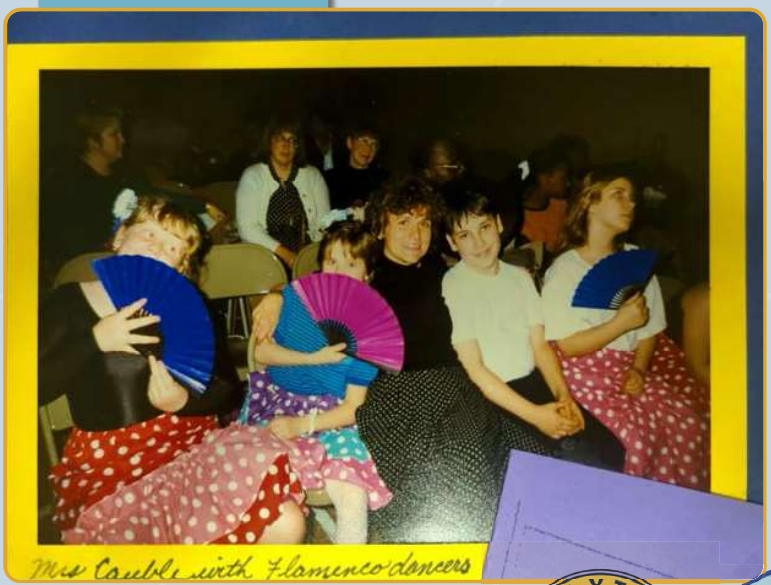
Claxton yearbook, 1995

Doña Pamela en el "Día de los Muertos."

Interviewed by: Dr. Kimberly Nava Eggett
March 6, 2024
Buncombe County Special Collections

Claxton scrapbook, 1996

Claxton scrapbook, 1992



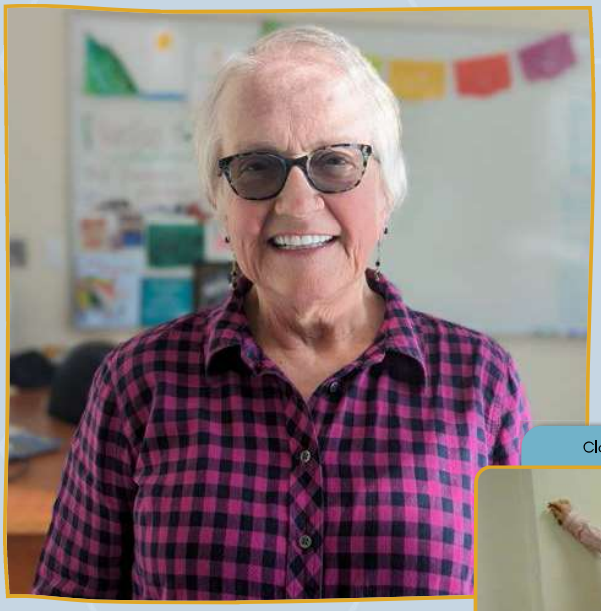
Mrs Cauble with Flamenco dancers

1924

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

2024

ORAL HISTORIES



Name: Dee Dee Allan
Years at Claxton: 1989–2013
Role: School Counselor
Claxton memory: Feeling the boiler room explosion of 1993 and supporting students and families during the evacuation when there were no protocols at that time in emergency prepareness.

Claxton Elementary, 2011

Interviewed by: Dr. Kimberly Nava Eggett
March 7, 2024
Buncombe County Special Collections

Claxton scrapbook, 1992

Photo on loan from Dee Dee Allan, 5th grade graduation, 1993

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1924 2024

ORAL HISTORIES

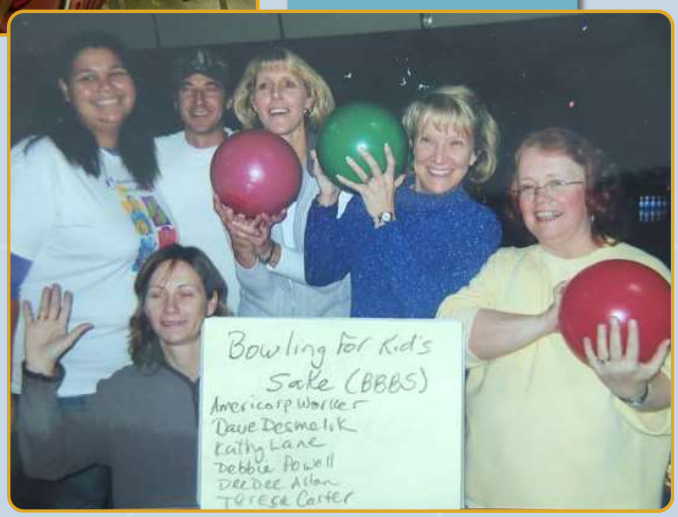
Name: Kathy Lane
Years at Claxton: 1988–2019
Role: EC teacher and reading interventionist
Claxton memory: Initiating a lot of programs with counselor, Dee Dee Allan, including student government, variety show, and career day.

Interviewed by: Dee Dee Allan
February 2, 2024
Buncombe County Special Collections

Claxton Elementary, 2011

Claxton scrapbook, 1992

Photo on loan from Dee Dee Allan, 2000s



1924

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

2024

ORAL HISTORIES

Name: Mark Ackerman
Years at Claxton: 2008–2020
Role: Social worker and School Counselor
Claxton memory: Starting out the day by greeting students at the breakfast line and ending the day at the bus line to check in on students.

Claxton Elementary, 2017

Interviewed by: Dee Dee Allan
February 18, 2024
Buncombe County Special Collections

Claxton Elementary, 2014

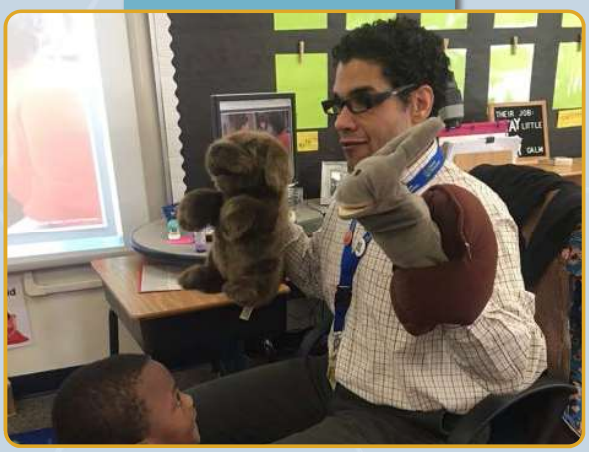


Photo on loan from Mark Ackerman, 2019

1924

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

2024

ORAL HISTORIES

Name: Dr. Ayesha McArthur
Years at Claxton: 2007–2011
Role: Principal
Claxton memory: Claxton was a family and she always looked forward to weekly meetings that were actively focused on supporting the needs of students.

Claxton yearbook, 2000s

Interviewed by: Dr. Kimberly Nava Eggett
February 27, 2024
Buncombe County Special Collections

Claxton Elementary, 2011

Photo on loan from Dr. McArthur

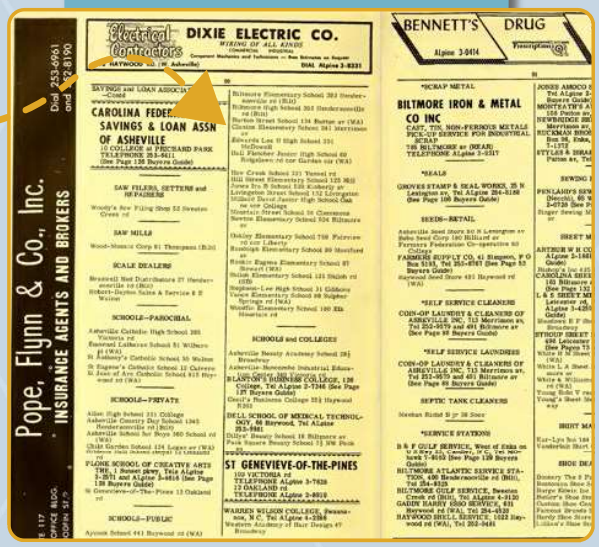
CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1924 2024

ORAL HISTORIES

Name: Diane Conway Hutchison
Years at Claxton: 1962–1963
Role: 6th grader
Claxton memory: Having to memorize the poem, "The Swing" and struggling to remember it. Still being connected with a best friend from Claxton all these years later.

Buncombe County Special Collections, Pack Memorial Library, No date



Hill Directory Company, Wilson Special Collections Library, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1962

Interviewed by: Dee Dee Allan
February 18, 2024
Buncombe County Special Collections

1924

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

2024

ORAL HISTORIES

Name: Preston Blakely
Years at Claxton: 1999–2006
Role: Student
Claxton memory: Seeing Mayor Terry Belamy speak at a Claxton assembly and her congratulating him years later as he became Mayor Blakely.

Interviewed by: Dr. Kimberly Nava Eggett
March 8, 2024
Buncombe County Special Collections

Photo on loan from Preston Blakely

Photo on loan from Preston Blakely

1924

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

2024

ORAL HISTORIES

Name: Dr. Kimberly Nava Eggett & Jude Nava Eggett
Years at Claxton: 2005, 2007–2023 & 2017–2023
Roles: 5th grade teacher, Digital Lead Teacher & K–5 student
Claxton memories: The 3rd floor mural, swarming bees, and kickball.

Photos on loan from Kimberly Nava Eggett

Interviewed by: Jude Nava Eggett
March 5, 2024
Buncombe County Special Collections

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY
EST. 1924
ASHEVILLE, NC

UNC Asheville
Center for Diversity Education

1924

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

2024

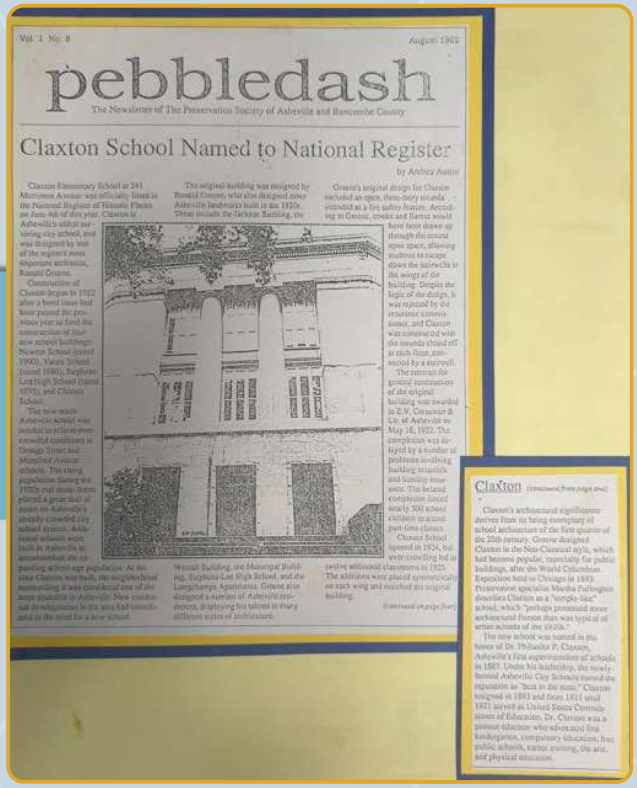
ORAL HISTORIES

Name: Lydia Hallum
Years at Claxton: 1991–1994, 1998–2004
Role: Instructional assistant and Title I Reading Recovery teacher
Claxton memory: Claxton staff encouraged her to seek teacher certification and had a tremendous influence in her coming back as a reading teacher.

Photos on loan from Lydia Hallum

Interviewed by: Dee Dee Allan
January 31, 2024
Buncombe County Special Collections

Claxton scrapbook, 1992



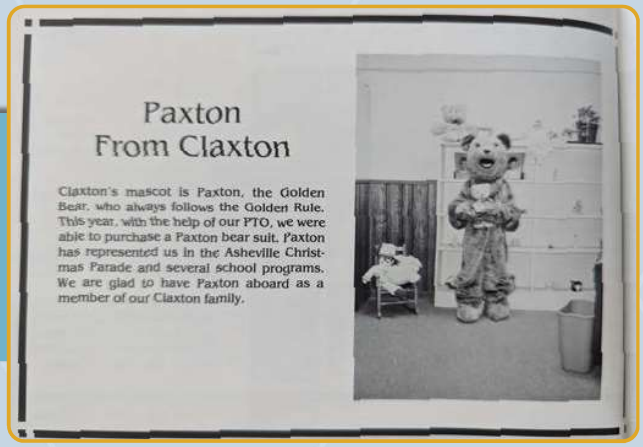
pebbledash

The Newsletter of The Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County

Claxton School Named to National Register

Claxton

Claxton yearbook, 1994



Paxton
From Claxton

Claxton's mascot is Paxton, the Golden Bear, who always follows the Golden Rule. This year, with the help of our PTO, we were able to purchase a Paxton bear suit. Paxton has represented us in the Asheville Christmas Parade and several school programs. We are glad to have Paxton aboard as a member of our Claxton family.

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY
EST. 1924
ASHEVILLE, NC

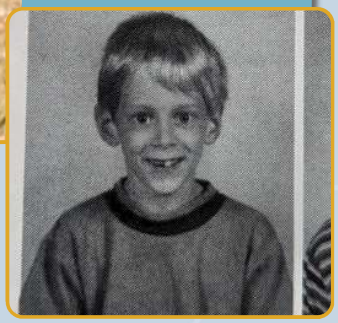
UNC Asheville
Center for Diversity Education

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1924 2024

ORAL HISTORIES

Name: Jacob Kerber
Years at Claxton: 1995–2001
Role: Student
Claxton memory: Singing "Paxton the Golden Bear" song at assemblies, which he still remembers!



Claxton yearbook, 1998

Interviewed by: Dr. Kimberly Nava Eggett
March 27, 2024
Buncombe County Special Collections

Photo on loan from Jacob Kerber

Photo on loan from Jacob Kerber

Photo on loan from Jacob Kerber

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1924 2024

ORAL HISTORIES

Name: Amy Brown
Years at Claxton: 2016–2022
Role: Media Coordinator
Claxton memory: Being a part of the observation bee hive installation, pollinator garden, and establishing the annual Bee Day for Claxton.

Photo on loan from Amy Brown;
Mr. Godleski's sheep
(not goats like noted in the oral history)

Interviewed by: Dr. Kimberly Nava Eggett
April 1, 2024
Buncombe County Special Collections

Photo on loan from Amy Brown

Mountain Xpress, 2018

Mountain Xpress, 2018

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

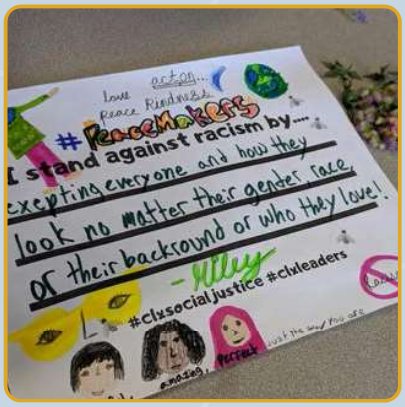
1924 2024

ORAL HISTORIES

Want more oral histories?

In the Fall of 2023, Claxton Elementary student leaders interviewed former Claxton Elementary students who are now Claxton Elementary parents or caregivers.

Scan the bee QR code below to hear or watch their stories!


#PeaceMakers
I stand against racism by....
excepting everyone and how they
look no matter their gender race
or their background or who they love!
#clvsocialjustice #clvleaders

CLAXTON ELEMENTARY

UNC Asheville Center for Diversity Education